

More Ideas • More Tips • More Style *What's inside matters most...*

BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING
HOMES MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2015 £3.70

Ideal Home®

978

Gorgeous looks & ideas

Let's get
WARM & COSY

- ♥ Snug Country Style
- ♥ Moody, Modern Florals
- ♥ Timeless Tartan & Plaid



Winter AT HOME

Be inspired by...

- 4 Real Homes With Character
- 3 Welcoming Kitchens
- 2 Luxurious Bathrooms



ALSO
INSIDE!



Treat Yourself To
A Little Luxury



Make Simple &
Satisfying Food



Find Your Dream
Range Cooker

With over 95 fabrics and 30 sofa shapes to choose from, we think you'll be amazed...



Sofa prices start at £399

A lime green sofa with a curved backrest and two matching pillows. It is positioned in a room with dark blue walls and a painting above it. To the right, there is a bar cart with glasses and a small table with vases.

4 day delivery on selected sofas and fabrics

#whatsmysofa



next HOME | Sofas
Chairs & Sofabeds

In this issue...

...escape the cold weather by turning your home into a snug retreat. Give your living room a cosy **country-house look** (page 20) with neutral plaids and nature-inspired buys, or create a classic feel with **forest green** and **tobacco** shades (page 104). Alternatively, go for something a bit bolder with dramatic **winter florals** (page 91). If you fancy braving the outdoors, read our advice on planning **a bonfire party** (page 152) and putting your **garden to bed** for winter (page 154), then warm up by cooking one of our comforting **pumpkin and squash recipes** (page 166). Enjoy!



12

Choose simple accessories for a relaxed feel



70

Add drama with bold colours and statement pieces

ON THE COVER VOLUME 191 ISSUE 3

Find inspiration for every room with the latest trends and shopping ideas

Combine classic plaids and rustic buys for modern country-house style

Create a striking look with dramatic winter florals

See inside four readers' homes and pick up some smart decorating tips



Spoil yourself this winter with our selection of indulgent buys

Enjoy warming dishes with our pumpkin and squash recipes

Take a look at the top appliances for your kitchen

Steal ideas from five kitchen and bathroom makeovers

READ THIS ON YOUR TABLET

Download your digital edition at housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine



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My to-do list for November

The things I'll be planning, doing and shopping for this month

Now that winter's set in, I'm claiming the cosiest sofa spot, dusting off my needlework box and craving hot puddings...

DOING THINGS WITH APPLES It turns out that the apple tree at the bottom of the garden of my new house is a prolific fruiter. Being a 'waste not, want not' kind of person, I've been diligently storing all the apples wrapped in newspaper in the garage, giving rise to all manner of apple-related projects: oven-dried apple slices; baked apples; stewed apples; apple printing with the littlest Richmonds... but strictly no apple pies or apple crumbles because I am now a fully paid-up member of WeightWatchers and on a mission to be back in a size 12 by Christmas. Now I've gone public, I'll have to stick to it!

REVIVING OLD Hobbies The WW regime means my usual winter weekend pleasures have been curtailed somewhat. Once the chores are done and any visiting Richmonds and/or associates have been safely seen off the premises, I would normally launch myself onto the sofa, armed with a large bar of Galaxy and

a snifter, to binge-watch *Homes Under the Hammer* or *Escape to the Country* (I have a soft spot for

Knit your own cushion set, £25, Marks & Spencer



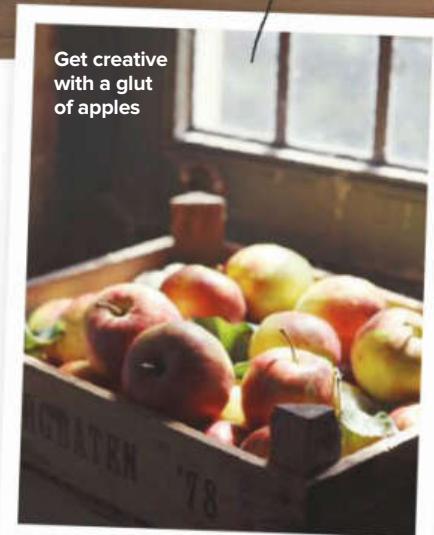
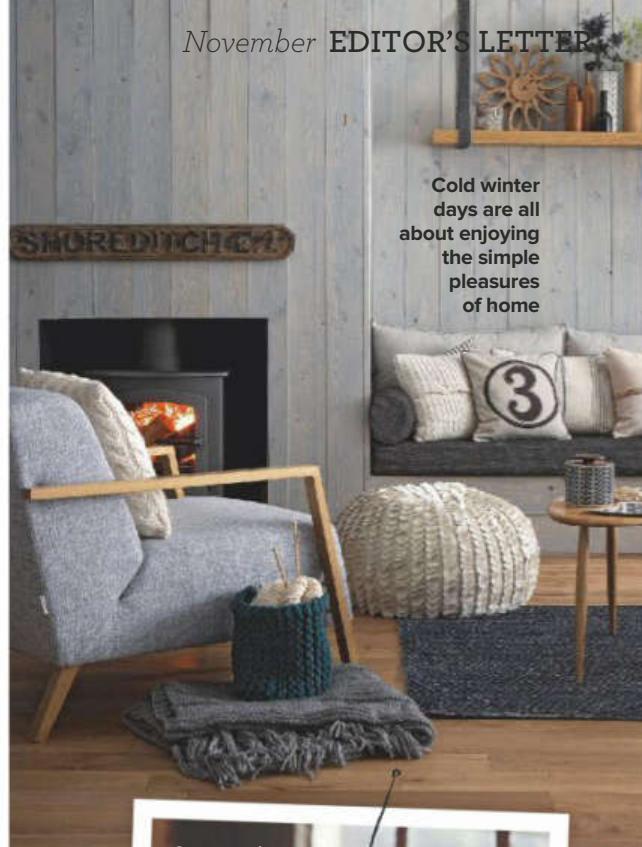
the ruddy-cheeked Jules Hudson). But Galaxy's on the banned list and snifters are limited to one delicious G&T (Hendricks mixed with FeverTree tonic, cucumber slices and a couple of basil leaves), so I'm keeping my mind off fat- and sugar-based foods by picking up long-abandoned knitting and cross-stitch projects.

BUYING VINTAGE Quite a while ago now, I interviewed an antiques expert, Toma Haines of antiquesdiva.com, for a feature. She spoke so passionately about the emotional value of old things, rather than their monetary or historical value, I've been toying with the idea of buying something vintage for my own home. So far, I haven't had the confidence to haggle with a dealer or make a bid, but recently I've shifted my focus to furnitureetc.co.uk - a new marketplace site for one-off, preloved furniture that sorts the wheat from the chaff for you. I've got my eye on a retro drinks trolley (to make those snifters a real event...), but if you're into shabby-chic, industrial or traditional style, you'll find lots to love, too.

Vanessa

Vanessa Richmond, Acting Editor

Cold winter days are all about enjoying the simple pleasures of home



Get creative with a glut of apples

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HELLO, WE'RE IDEAL HOME!

Together, we are a team of... multitasking mums, independents, wise empty nesters, single ladies ('all the single ladies...'), attached ladies, fierce Millennials, mellow mid lifers, property owners, free spirits, animal lovers, star bakers, crafters, DIY champions, health nuts, sofa slugs, geeks and goddesses... but, above all, we're passionate home makers. Nice to meet you!

Go to housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine to see more of what we do – you can sign up to our treat of a weekly newsletter there, too...



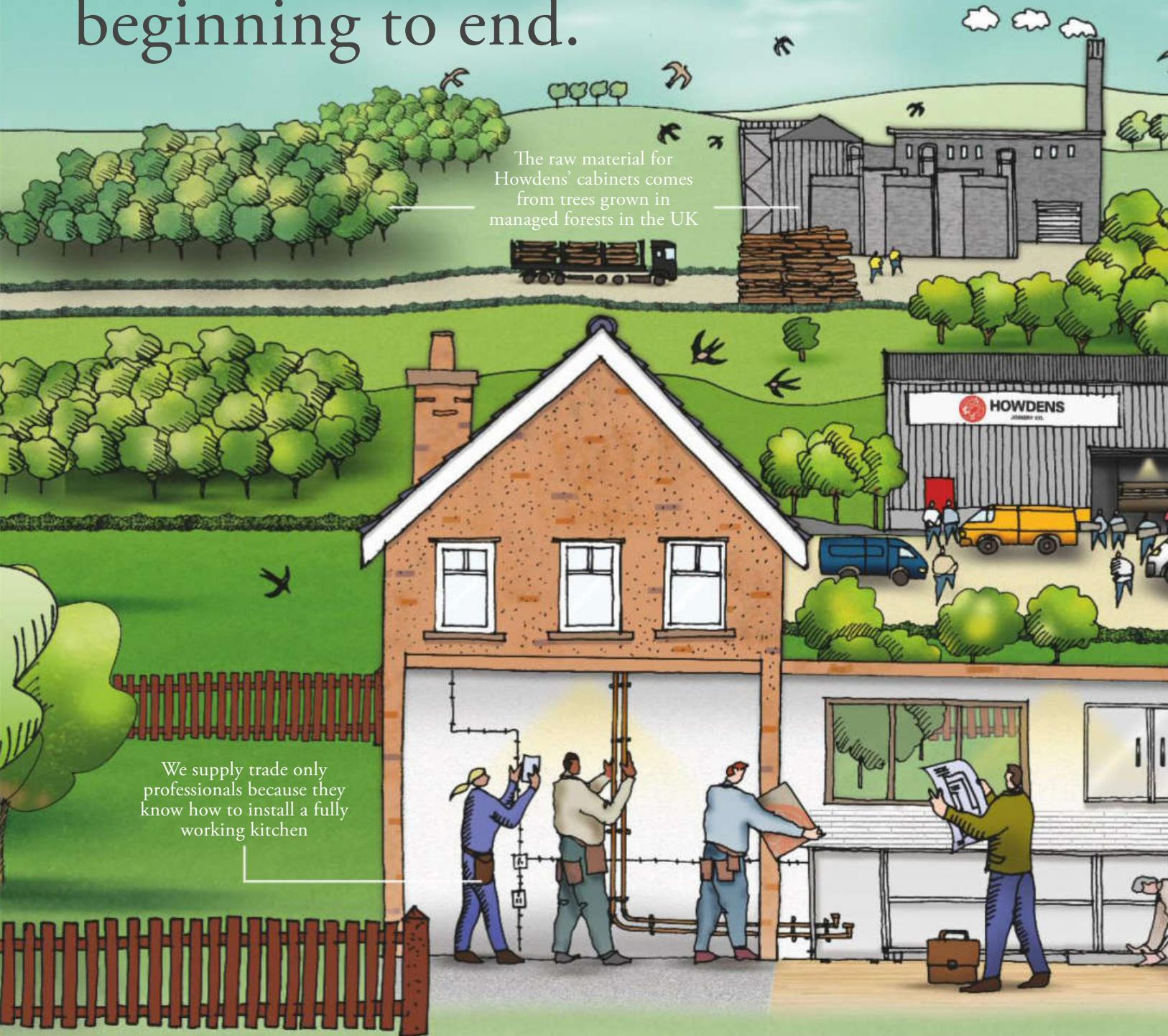
What's behind a Howdens kitchen?





Turn the page to read our story...

Behind every Howdens kitchen is experience and expertise from beginning to end.



Howdens Joinery is the UK's largest manufacturer and supplier of fitted kitchens, appliances and joinery products.

We know it takes trade specialists to install a great-looking kitchen and, importantly, one that works every time, every day. That's why we only sell to trade professionals like your local builder.

Our products are available from stock in each of our 600 depots throughout the UK, and in each depot expert planners are on hand to design your kitchen and support you and your builder throughout.

Talk to your local builder about Howdens, and visit www.howdens.com to see our full range of kitchens and joinery products, or call 0800 6888 167 to request a brochure.

We manufacture all our cabinets and most of
our worktops in our factories in the UK

Kitchens designed for every home

Each of our 600 depots has expert
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See Acting Style Editor
Michela's edit of what's
in the shops this month



Artisan style

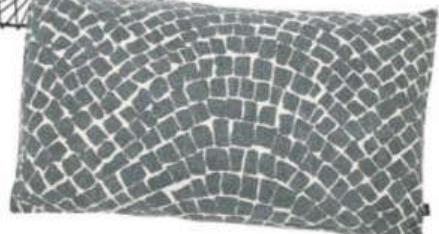
Keep it simple
Stoneware pitcher,
£32, Murmur
range, Bedeck

Material mix

**Add a hint of
industrial style**
Desk lamp in
white, £145, Out
There Interiors

To the wire

**Fill with logs
and place next
to the fire**
Wire baskets,
£99 for three,
Nordic House



Stone circle
Use cushions with
simple two-tone patterns
Cobble cushion, £35,
Cox & Cox

Plain face
We love the
unfinished
plywood look
Giant wooden
clock, £15, Wilko



Maker's mark
Bring in a painterly
hand-finished look
Spot & Stripe mugs,
£9 for two, Next



Bag it up
Keep your Ideal
Home issues handy
Fabric storage basket,
£22 for two, Sainsbury's



And relax...

Big enough to curl up in
Chalk cuddler sofa in Silver Combination,
£879, French Connection range, DFS



Stony look
Include plenty
of candles
Candle holder, £18,
Gray & Willow range,
House of Fraser



On your metal
Steel-framed pieces
lend an industrial edge
Coffee table (H44cm x
W120cm x D70cm),
£129, Brunel range,
Out & Out Original



Winter warmer
Keep to hand for an
extra layer of cosiness

Fringed herringbone
blanket, £29.99,
Zara Home



Textured glaze
Choose nature-
inspired pattern
Norton white textural
ceramic vase, £10,
Habitat

Mix natural materials with country pieces

Barker small sofa in Linso light blue, £550; Soft Bands throw, £14.99; side tables, £150 for three; five-tier shelf, £300; both Spitalfields range; Harry desk lamp in cream, £24.99; all Dunelm



LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



Label a coat peg or bedroom door
Mango wood alphabet tags, Nkuku

See more finds on Michela's blog
homeshoppingspy.com



Family tree

Put a treasured photo on show

Wooden leaf patterned frame, £4.99, Dunelm

Little acorn...

...to mighty oak

Acorn candle, £6.95, Broste range, The Scandinavian Shop



Woodland chic

There's no need to start whittling to work the modern forest look – this rustic style is all over the high street

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Be seated

Go for the rustic, stripped-bark effect

Wooden stool, £39.99, HomeSense

Soft touch

Burrow into a sofa full of cushions

Hare print cushion, £14, Next



Hoot away

Let this wise bird keep watch

Vintage owl, £8, Debenhams

It takes two Season in style

Owl salt and pepper set, £7, The Contemporary Home



Cut above

This striking board makes a good serving platter

Essentials acacia wood chopping board, £12, BHS



Curvy cup

Warm your hands

Bold striped mug in turquoise, £8, Marks & Spenser



Feel foxy

Introduce some animal magic

Fox, £78, Glass Menagerie range, Jonathan Adler



GET THE LOOK IN 3 BUYS

Seventies revival



£80

Folky feel

Think out of the box for a touch of vintage style

Shelving unit, BHS

£540

Retro rattan

Hold court on a hippie-chic throne

Peacock rattan chair, The French Bedroom Company



£89



Splash of colour

Put your feet up and relax

Knitted pouffe in Aqua, Marks & Spenser

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£12.95
for three

Pyramid scheme

Cake tins, Vintage Apple range, Dotcomgiftshop

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com



Etta Prints and Weaves

villanova.co.uk
THE ROMO GROUP

VILLA NOVA

SO HOT Right Now

Go with the grain for the wood-effect trend

£35



Branch out
Twig silhouettes inside show up when it's lit
Woodland drum shade, John Lewis

£7



Grainy print
Add an instant forest feel
Mixed texture cushion, George

£200



Trunk call
Wrap up in this reversible lamb's wool blanket
Large Woolwoody throw in brown, Donna Wilson

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£3

Give guests a warm welcome without even saying a word
Hello metal sign, Primark

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com

THE NEXT BIG THING

Heritage fabric houses

Iconic brands are weaving their magic with inspiring design collaborations

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Morris Seaweed wallpaper in Cobalt/Thyme, £58 per roll, Morris & Co range, Wallpaperdirect

THE STORY SO FAR In a creative mix of innovation, tradition and British eccentricity, established fabric houses are forging strong relationships with designers and high-street retailers to bring their designs to a new audience.

WHERE WE'VE SEEN IT Liberty's latest collection, Secret Garden, features leaf and floral prints both dense and dainty in linen, velvet and satin. A recent collaboration sees Liberty Art Fabrics as cover fabric options at Sofas & Stuff. Vanessa Arbuthnott worked with spinners and weavers in the Outer Hebrides to create Harris Tweed for her Birds and Beasts collection, after her artist daughter Rose brought back home-spun fabrics from a painting tour there.

LATEST RELEASES Artist and theorist William Morris was at the centre of the radical Arts and Crafts movement, which still inspires designers today. Purveyor of bold and beautiful prints House of Hackney has reimagined three patterns from the Morris archive for a new generation, while Leeds-based Abraham Moon & Sons is making quality wool fabrics for Marks & Spencer sofas, as well as bold throws and cushions.



Timeless
A classic design
Strawberry Thief framed print, £60, William Morris range, John Lewis



Fine form
Go Art Nouveau lanthe cushion, £95, Liberty



Dark delight
Covered in a classic Liberty print
Grassington sofa in Liberty Capello Shell in Stream, £1,923, Sofas & Stuff



Cool wool
Yorkshire-made checked throw
Multiblock throw in Aqua, £89.95, Bronte by Moon



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Amazingly simple.



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Pendant lights from £29.95 to £10,805.

10% off with code IHD110.

www.houseology.com

3 of the best REACTIVE GLAZES

£3.49

Throwback
Bring in a little vintage style
Stoneware glaze mug in grey, Dunelm

£30

Star glazer
Add a touch of Fifties studio pottery
Glazed ceramic stripe lamp, George

Two tone
Take the rough with the smooth
Reactive glaze tumbler in grey, Tesco Direct

£5

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

THU
NOV 21

£25

Handy for jotting down 'To-Dos'
Wall hanging calendar and chalkboard, Very

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com



FEATURE MICHELA COLLING, HOLLY CATFORD

This month we love...



Michela Colling, Acting Style Editor

'Gray & Willow's storage unit, perfect for displaying pretty dinnerware as well as hiding more mundane pieces'

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget

£195
for two£37
for two

Hold all
Stash away household clutter
Hyacinth baskets in Noir,
Hübsch range, Smallable

Chevron chic
Use as stylish laundry baskets
Seagrass baskets in black and neutral,
Murmur range, Bedeck



Make yourself at home

Wonderfully friendly bench seating always has room to welcome one more

Arundel oak large dining table £1,775 & bench £650; Keats large lantern pendant £80 each;
Bowsley tableware from £10 for a dessert plate & jug from £16

Create your own designs at neptune.com
Stores nationwide

N
NEPTUNE

CASH CLEVER *Decorator*

Try the Highland trend for less than £163

Mix nature-inspired designs with neutral plaids to create a snug haven in modern country-house style

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Hightail it
Include rural designs
Pheasant cushion,
The Estate Yard range,
[Notonthehighstreet.com](#)

Slow burn
Create a cosy feel
with candlelight
Ruaridh Waugh candle
beaker, Anta

Burnt ochre
Add texture and warmth
with a knobbly knit
Orange knitted throw with
tassels, Sainsbury's

Felt up
Combine utility
with good looks
Felt storage bucket in grey, John Lewis

Rustic glass
Go for informal
arrangements
Recycled glass
hurricane,
[Tesco Direct](#)

Buck-lit
Add some humour
with accessories
Reindeer tealight
holder, House
of Fraser



IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget

Drum'n'base
Limewashed wood
legs and a drum
shade look sharp
and contemporary
Harley tripod floor
lamp, BHS

Low-key cool
A tall floor lamp
provides ambient
light and lends
a sculptural feel
Thea tripod floor
lamp, Very

Wallpaper
alcoves to
create focal
points and
frame a
chimney
breast



See more shopping inspiration over the page ►

Find more Highland buys on the high street

Love this trend? Whether you want to try a lot of it or a little, here's where to shop

Try a rougher, rustic version of this look using easy-to-live-with pieces in wood and metal, or go for a more grown-up style mixing wool plaids with Highland-inspired prints.

TRY IT IN THE BEDROOM

Snuggle down in a log-cabin-style bedroom with linen and throws

from Sainsbury's in autumnal colourways inspired by nature.

...OR THE LIVING ROOM

Smart upholstered furniture from Argos with co-ordinating rugs, leather trunks and simple metal lanterns give a sense of luxurious living.



Lumberjack look

Soft rust, clay and putty hues suit this scheme
Red metal pendant lights, £22 each; orange knitted throw with tassels, £25; orange-and-navy check throw, £16; black brushed check bed linen, £30 for a double set; all Sainsbury's



Check mate
Ramp up comfort levels with a deep upholstered chair
Argyll chair in Autumn tartan, £380, Heart of House range, Argos



Game bird
Pick a country-inspired print
Pheasant toile cushion, House of Fraser

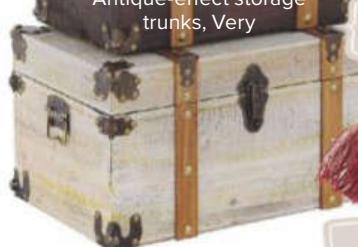
£25

£15

Gorgeous glow
Accessorise with natural materials
Large wooden lantern, Tesco Direct

£99
for two

On the case
Go for storage that looks good, too
Antique-effect storage trunks, Very



£100

Fringe style
Cosy up with a soft throw
Stirling Check Cranberry throw, Laura Ashley

FIND ALL THE DETAILS
DECORATION AND FURNITURE Harlow Sand **wallpaper**, £24.50 per m, Voyage Decoration. **Chimney breast** painted in Kent Grey Spectrum Emulsion, £39 for 2.5litr, Sanderson. **Skirting** painted in Silver Acrylic Eggshell; **hearth** painted in Silver Double Acrylic Eggshell; both £48.50 for 2.5litr, Zoffany. Rustica RU102 **flooring**, £79 per sq m, Crucial Trading. **Elis rug**, £220, Cox & Cox. Flat Victorian **fire surround** in pine, £348, Amazing Grates. 3410 Owl **stove**, £1,751, Morsø. Rustic Stone **interior panel**, £594, Chesney's. Bluebell three seater **sofa** in Ash soft wool, £1,540, Sofa.com. Sophia **chair**, £349, Tesco Direct. Contemporary **footstool**, from £235, The Dormy House; covered in Burlington Cobalt, £59.50 per m, Romo. Suffolk 4ft **sideboards**

in Honed Slate, £995 each, Neptune. **ON SOFA CUSHIONS**, from left: Natural knitted, £14, Sainsbury's; made in Burlington Henna, £59.50 per m, Romo; made in Wool Fleck Check (front), £30 per m, John Lewis; Dune Henna (back), £32.50 per m, Romo; Pheasant, £60, The Estate Yard range, Notonthehighstreet.com; plain velvet, £25, John Lewis; Duncan MacGillivray 18in, £56, Anta. Orange knitted throw, £25, Sainsbury's. **ON FOOTSTOOL** Merino and cashmere **throw**, £130, Heal's. Serving **tray**, £169, Brissi. Soapstone sake **cup** and **pourer**, £42 for a five piece set, Ceramica Blue. Ruaridh Waugh **candle beaker**, £36 for two; Isobel Anderson small Lavender **candle bowl**, from £48; both Anta. Recycled glass **hurricane**, £10, Tesco Direct. **ON/NEAR ARMCHAIR** Tree **pillow**, £12, Sainsbury's. Plain velvet **pillow**, as before. Medium leather **trunk**, £250, Life

of Riley. Isobel Anderson **candle beaker**, £36, Anta. Harley **floor lamp**, £150, BHS. **ON/ABOVE LEFT SIDEBOARD** Small Marina **hurricane**, £21, Brissi. Slate **picture frame**, £20, Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser. Ruaridh Waugh large **table lamp**, £196; Owl large linen **lampshade**, £69; both Anta. 3D Stag **artwork** (framed), £45, Daisy Maison range, Notonthehighstreet.com. **ON/NEAR MANTEL** Leather **hurricane**, from £159; New England **mirror**, from £240; both Brissi. Reindeer **tealight holders**, £16 each, House of Fraser. Isobel Anderson **candle bowl**, from £48, Anta. Felt **bucket**, £15, House by John Lewis range, John Lewis. Fireside **tools**, £110 for four, Garden Trading. **ON RIGHT SIDEBOARD** Vase, £30, Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser. Borealis **bowl**, £42.50, Parlance International. Leather **hurricane**, as before

THE ZIBA COLLECTION

BEDECK

1951



shop online at bedeck.com



DIGITAL DELIGHTS
Laura's range for
Debenhams is based
on the theme of lost
and found treasure

HIGH STREET *Heroes*

Laura Oakes

Meet the designer injecting vibrant life into homeware with vintage images and bold shades

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Artist and designer Laura Oakes specialises in a striking digital decoupage technique, which is created by layering eclectic images, antique illustrations and a combination of her own photographs and drawings in a bold colour palette. She started out creating one-off pieces for clients before launching a range for Liberty, and this year was invited to be one of Debenhams' Edition designers, showcasing an exclusive collection of cushions, lampshades and accessories.

'I believe that everyone has the right to own art - it should be accessible, not elitist,' says Laura. 'So when Debenhams approached me, I felt it was a great way of making my work available to a much wider audience.'

Based in a studio-cum-gallery in Rye, East Sussex, Laura creates and prints her designs digitally, then transfers them to a range of products,

which are all made in the UK. Her collections are constantly changing to incorporate new ideas and styles.

'I'm currently working on a more refined and limited-edition collection of homeware, as well as experimenting on a range of leather jackets with celebrity stylist Rachel Anthony and her consultancy The Cabal,' explains Laura. 'This is my first foray into fashion and I'm really excited to see how my designs translate into a different medium.'

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LOOK

Born and brought up in Brighton, Laura enjoyed spending time outdoors, climbing trees, or at the beach searching for shells and treasure with her father and younger brother. 'Growing up, my role model was my grandfather,' says Laura. 'He was a quiet man, gentle and thoughtful, always doing things for



OUT ON SHOW
Laura's studio-cum-
gallery in Rye provides
the perfect backdrop
for her imaginative
and colourful designs

other people with no hidden agenda. This is something I've always thought important - to be genuine in spirit and in thought. I also spent a lot of time with my aunt, who worked as a restorer at the Brighton Pavilion, and this is where I feel my inspiration for the exotic and extraordinary started.'

A background in illustration and the visual arts was a key factor in Laura's career. 'After completing an illustration degree at the University of Westminster, I went on to study for an MA in communication design at Central St Martin's. A top advertising agency then offered me a job, but I decided to get out of London instead and set up on my own. I think I always knew I wouldn't be someone who would fit into a particular box, but my career

**RESTORED TO GLORY**

Framed decoupage artwork sits above a console table that Laura has revitalised with a Perspex top



path wasn't necessarily something I chose – setting up my own company came about in a very organic way.'

CAREER PATH

Laura's big break came when she was approached by Liberty. 'It was an amazing opportunity, as I had spent many a childhood outing in London in awe of the Liberty building and its fabrics,' she explains.

'After the meeting with the head buyer, I wandered around London in a daze, shocked that they actually wanted to stock my products.'

Constantly driven to find new ways of communicating through her work, Laura is at her happiest and most fulfilled when creating a piece of art. 'The idea that what I create gives pleasure to others is something that is really important to me,' she says. 'Everyone should be able to have something in their home that makes them feel good. I also like the idea that my creations can be passed on

The idea that what I create gives pleasure to others is something that is really important to me

to future generations. That's why the manufacturing process is important to me, too, and one of the main reasons why my products are made in the UK. I believe there has to be integrity in how my work is created.'

Laura lives in a detached bungalow on Winchelsea beach with her partner, Jamie, and Pixie the dog. Her home is also a reflection of her unique style.

'It's very eclectic,' she explains. 'Most of my furniture is vintage, so it's a real mixture of styles. As you would imagine, it's quite colourful and there's art everywhere. I also have lots of carefully curated displays of things – vintage and antique textiles, doll's house furniture and my treasured photographs and books – somehow it all seems to work together.'

THE LAURA OAKES PHILOSOPHY

'Don't rush into changing or creating the look and feel of your home. Let the spaces speak to you by living with them first and then go from there.' →

LAURA'S PICKS

From her Edition range for Debenhams

**TRAY SPOTTING**

Keep rings and bracelets out on display on your dressing table
Trinket dish, £10, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams

**INSIDE STORY**

Add a subtle glimpse of extravagant print
Lamp with teal base, £75, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams

**GO GREEN**

A fresh glow
Lily Bloom scented votive, £16, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams

**WILD THING**

Display decoupage with other artwork for an eclectic look
Wall art, £36, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams

**ROSY ROMANCE**

Introduce a little edgy glamour
Mirror Mirror cushion, £28, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams

ARTIST'S EYE
Laura's collection of vintage curios, cards and photographs acts as inspiration for her own artwork



SHADY LADY
Brighten up a scheme with a colourful base and shade
Lamp, £75, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams



BEAUTIFUL REFLECTIONS
Indulge in lush, lacy florals
Panelled mirror, £50, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams



TREASURE TROVE
The vintage and antiques shops in Hastings Old Town in East Sussex are a fabulous place to rummage for finds



IN THE PINK
Create a blush-tinted glow
Lily Bloom scented votive, £16, Laura Oakes/Edition range, Debenhams



PERFECT PAIRING
There's a clear resonance between archive Liberty prints (right) and Laura's lovely designs



FAVOURITE PLACES
One of Laura's favourite shops is McCully & Crane in Rye, which sells eclectic finds and original pieces

Laura's inspiration...



FEATURE KAREN BRAY

GET TO KNOW HER SIGNATURE STYLE Renowned for her individual approach to interior design,

Laura's unique style is influenced by her love of history, nostalgia, travel and the world around her. 'I collect books and photographs, and these are where most of the images I use in my designs come from,' she says. 'I love anything that has a history and a story behind it, so I can't walk past an old junk shop without rescuing

something. I have a particular interest in Victorian ephemera – postcards, calling cards, photos, packaging, fabric and wallpaper, and have an obsession with collecting things with an emotional attachment. I like to create pieces that are unique, that have a sense of the past but don't feel old-fashioned, so I combine the vintage imagery I love with a bold, contemporary colour palette. A lot of customers tell me a piece has reminded them of someone special, or of a significant event in their lives, which for me is lovely.'

POWER PATTERNS
Bold designs create a wonderful focal point
Laura Oakes cushions, £75 each, Little Treasures Vintage



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'Our period home has a contemporary look'

Want to breathe life into an old property? Follow Martin Holland and Mark Walters' lead, and give it a modern makeover

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big **CHANGE**

RENOVATING A DATED VICTORIAN SEMI BY GIVING IT AN OPEN-PLAN LAYOUT AND A NEUTRAL PALETTE, AS WELL AS ADDING BESPOKE DETAILS





Get the
LOOK
PAGE 41

1 Living area

The cut-out shelf feature helps to filter daylight from the south-facing living room into the hall

Verona corner sofa, £1,599; Blocks wall mirror, £249; both Dwell. Large Gåser rug, £140, Ikea. Wall painted in Salisbury Stones 2 matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£115,000	£25,000	£170,000

THE LOOK

A three-bedroom, semi-detached house in Nottingham, which was built in 1900. The owners bought it in August 2009.

WHAT IT COST

Building work and new windows.....	£6,500
Kitchen.....	£7,000
Electrics and lighting.....	£1,000
Decorating.....	£4,000
Furniture.....	£6,500
TOTAL.....	£25,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Martin Holland and his partner, Mark Walters, who together run MartinMark Design.

THE LOOK

Contemporary and bright, with bespoke design elements and soft textures set against white walls and dark-wood floors.



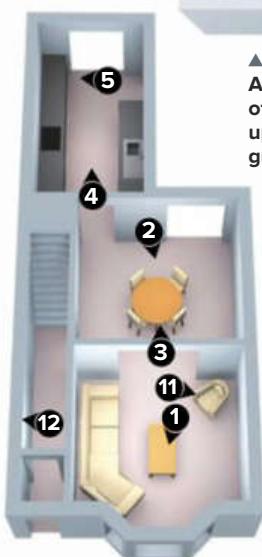
LESSONS LEARNED

Measure furniture carefully before you buy. One section of the sofa we bought for the second living room wouldn't go up the stairs, but we managed to fit it through the window.



◀ FIRST FLOOR

Upstairs, there's the landing-cum-seating area, with the main bedroom to the front of the house and bathroom at the back



▲ SECOND FLOOR

A second flight of stairs leads up to a loft-style guest bedroom

GROUND FLOOR ▶
The living/dining room is to the right of the hall, with the kitchen at the back of the house



COSY UP FOR WINTER

Upholstered chairs will make a dining area a comfortable place to gather beyond meal times



2 Dining area

Taupe and white have been used in the living and dining areas for a sense of continuity. An opulent chandelier creates a striking feature above the round table. For a similar chandelier, try India's Irresistible, £325, Sweetpea & Willow



'The aim was to create an open-plan feel with plenty of light. We like the blend of classic and contemporary, but there has to be a quirky edge that you can't buy in the shops'

From the outside, Martin Holland and Mark Walters' red-brick semi in Nottingham looks like the neighbouring houses, but the inside tells a different story. They have rearranged the interior space, knocked down walls and installed their own striking design innovations, turning an ordinary house into a uniquely stylish one. 'While house hunting, we weren't looking for a particular type of property,' says Martin. 'We like a lot of different periods and styles, so it was all about the potential to create something interesting and individual.'

They viewed several options before spotting the perfect place – this turn-of-the-century semi on a quiet street. The house was under offer, but the sale fell through a few weeks later and the couple snapped it up. 'We wanted a project

and this was ideal,' says Martin. 'We could live in it, but it needed a complete overhaul.'

Apart from the recently refurbished bathroom, the rooms were bare and the only original character left was some cornicing in the hall and living room. The kitchen was damp, there were mismatched floors and draughty windows, and the décor was old-fashioned.

During the weeks it took to secure the purchase, Martin and Mark fine-tuned their ideas for transforming their house. Their plans were ambitious, with a wall-to-wall redesign for each room. 'The aim was to create an open-plan feel with plenty of light,' says Martin. 'We like the blend of classic and contemporary, but there has to be a quirky edge that you can't buy in the shops – and we never do things by halves!'

Once in, the couple demolished the wall between the living and dining rooms, ripped →

③ Dining area

Martin and Mark love entertaining and their sociable round table makes the most of the space. Their inventive wall panelling neatly disguises the door to the understairs cupboard

For a similar table, try the six seater Radar, £399, Wales & Wales range, John Lewis. Loop Leg chairs, £99 each, Dwell

**④ Kitchen**

Keenly priced fitted white units left room in the budget for lovely walnut worksurfaces Kensal units, from £210 for a W600mm base unit, Simply Hygena range, Homebase

**⑤ Kitchen**

A compact table with seating are ideal for the small space
For a similar table, try the Typhoon, £55; for similar bar stools, try the Bamboo, £33.99 each; all Atlantic Shopping

3 of the best WALL MIRRORS

In the frame
Choose a decorative metal frame for an eclectic look
Nisha mirror (diameter 100cm), Next

£225

Simple curves

A classic shape in a soft ivory finish
Beaded arch wall mirror (H104cm), Heart of House range, Argos

£69.99

Sharp angles

This gilt-edged design will add an element of glamour
Large hexagon mirror, Oliver Bonas

£35



6 Main bedroom

An oversized padded headboard lends a sumptuous look to this room, while a large rug softens the dark-wood flooring

For a similar bed, try the Emilia, from £1,795, And So To Bed. For a similar bedsplash, try the Lexington Washed Diamond grey, £229, House of Fraser

out the kitchen and knocked through exterior walls, ready for glass doors to be fitted in the dining area and kitchen. Then the patchwork of concrete, laminate, tile and wood flooring downstairs was replaced with unifying dark-stained timber floorboards. Fitting these proved to be one of the biggest jobs, involving taking off all the skirting boards and raising sections of the floor to get a consistent level.

'For about six months, there was brick dust everywhere and it was dirty, messy and cold,' recalls Martin. 'We had a limited budget, so we did most of the work ourselves with help from family. It was difficult, but we learnt as much as we could and focused on the end result.'

Over about three years, the rooms were replastered, redecorated and rearranged. As the smallest bedroom was surplus to requirements,

Martin and Mark knocked down the wall separating it from the landing to form a seating area, complete with TV and music systems. They also created unique structural features, such as the angular suspended ceiling that houses the kitchen lighting, the integrated storage and cladding around the living-room fireplace, and textural wall panelling in the dining room. 'The panelling was inspired by something we spotted in a department store,' says Martin. 'Mark designed it using MDF.'

One of their most creative ideas is the double-sided display area in the wall between the hall and living room. The hall was narrow and dark, and the couple wanted to increase the light, without removing the dividing wall. Their solution was to knock through a hole and fill it with shelves. 'Removing the bricks was ➤



7 Seating area

Martin and Mark combined the landing and a bedroom to create a space for chilling out
Indulgence Shaggy rug, from £39.99, Dunelm. For a similar sofa, try the Laguna corner, from £995, Dwell



8 Seating area

The swivel chair was an auction find that has been restored and reupholstered in a rich purple velvet
For a similar chair, try the black large Egg chair, £369, Modern Furniture and Lighting





'We did most of the work ourselves with help from family. It was difficult, but we focused on the end result'

9 Bathroom

The original bathroom had only recently been upgraded when Martin and Mark moved in

For a similar washstand, try the Logic, £900, Fired Earth. For a similar shower enclosure, try the V4 Quadrant 900, £89.99, Victoriaplum.com

nerve-wracking,' says Martin. 'There's a concrete lintel supporting the hole, but we worried that the cornicing might collapse.'

They replaced all the cheap internal pine doors with timber-framed glass ones, and glazed doors to the garden from the dining area and kitchen let in more light. The white kitchen is offset by richly hued wood flooring and worksurfaces. The décor, too, lends the interior a bright yet inviting feel, with light-reflecting chrome accessories and mirrors.

The newly plastered rooms were painted white, after which Martin and Mark began buying key furniture. 'We're keen on the neutral look, so long as it isn't bland,' says Martin. 'We've used taupe on two walls in the living area and the white really lifts it, and we've added texture with cushions, throws and rugs.'

Transforming their home has taken much of Martin and Mark's time, energy and money, but the two have relished the chance to hone their skills. As a result of the experience, Martin entered and won BBC Two's *The Great Interior Design Challenge* and he and Mark have since set up their own company, MartinMark Design (martinmarkdesign.com). 'It's been a huge learning curve, but we've loved it,' says Martin. 'And as part of the process, we've created the home we always wanted.' ■





11 Living area
Martin and Mark built a contemporary unit around the chimney breast, which incorporates storage and a gas fire
Barcelona chair, £329, Metro Furniture



12 Hallway
A trio of mirrors creates an effective display and helps to bounce light around the space
For similar mirrors, try the Marston hanging, £74.99 for two, Wayfair

DON'T MISS the details

Designer pieces and luxurious textures have created a home that's both stylish and comfortable



13 Seating area
A multi-light cluster in tones of grey suits this contemporary scheme
For a similar light, try the Soprana cone cluster pendant, £69.59, Lighting Direct



14 Main bedroom
An owl cushion is a fun addition to the retro rocking chair
Eames-style rocker, £69, Cult Furniture.
Oscar owl cushion, £14.99, Dunelm

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Get Martin's look

Team modern pieces in taupe and white for a sleek look

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IDEAL

In the spotlight
Go for an elegant chrome design
Mini lounge chrome floor lamp (H197cm), Heal's

£300

Peace token
Bring some Zen to your living space
Buddha head sculpture in resin (H42cm), Wayfair

£38.99



£452

Lounge lover
Inspired by the classic Mies van der Rohe design
Barcelona style chair in white semi-aniline leather, Voga

£249



£80

Warm wool
Get cosy with a cable-knit blanket
Chunky knit throw, House of Fraser



£3,700

Spacious chaise
Wide seats offer extra comfort
Tokyo sofa in Bala Putty (H80cm x W300cm x D240cm), John Lewis

GREAT DEAL

Wise head
A serene sculpture on a wooden base
Chrome Buddha head on stand (H40cm), Shabby Store

£25



£249

Retro elegance
This lookalike is just as chic
Barcelona replica chair in white leather, Milan Direct



£69.99

Seeing square
Add a bold focal point
Silver Hotel Squares mirror (H40cm x L120cm), Dunelm

£55

Touchy feely
Layer on the luxe with this ruched fabric throw
Zoe throw, Very



Flexible seating
Individual units can be rearranged
Mortimer sofa in Shadow Mocha (H84cm x W258cm x D190cm), Made.com

'We kept it modern and pared back'

Bring cool, minimalist style to your interiors, as Mette Bergmann and Jon Lucas have done in their home

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big **CHANGE**

RENOVATING AND
MODERNISING A RUNDOWN
BEACH HOUSE AND ADDING
LARGE WINDOWS
AND GLAZED DOORS
THAT LEAD TO
THE BEACH





Get the
LOOK
PAGE 55

① Living room

A generous corner sofa piled with cushions and throws adds a cosy feel to the neutral scheme

For a similar sofa, try the Amalfi 7180, £3,995, Heal's. For a similar rug, try the Soho in Dusk, from £520, Designers Guild range, John Lewis

② Living area

Mette and Liv spend a lot of time relaxing together in this open-plan room
Pisa sofabed, £399; Patio rug, from £55; both Dwell





Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£635,000	£200,000	£1 million

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, Fifties beach house in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. The owners bought it in December 2009.

WHAT IT COST

Building work.....	£120,000
Roof and loft conversion.....	£35,000
Windows.....	£25,000
Kitchen.....	£8,000
Bathrooms.....	£10,000
Flooring.....	£2,000
TOTAL.....	£200,000

WHO LIVES HERE?

Mette Bergmann, her partner, Jon Lucas, who is owner of web hosting company Hyve, and their daughter, Liv, eight.

THE LOOK

Contemporary, inspired by modernist principles of clean lines, simple furnishings, open-plan living spaces

GROUND FLOOR ▶

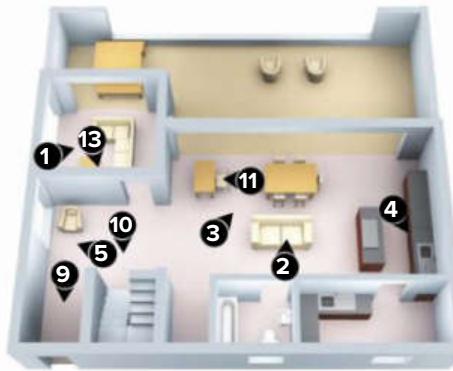
The hall leads to the open-plan kitchen-diner and living area. There's also a separate living room, bathroom and utility room



and fuss-free décor in shades of white, black and grey.

LESSONS LEARNED

“If we'd had the money, we would have fitted underfloor heating. Then we could've got rid of the radiators, simplifying the look.”



◀ FIRST FLOOR
Upstairs, there are three bedrooms, one of which leads to a roof terrace, and two bathrooms



'We wanted to be able to appreciate the sea views as soon as we stepped into our living space'

Looking for a change in lifestyle, Mette Bergmann and her partner, Jon Lucas, decided to move from London to the south coast. 'Jon and I had lived in Shoreham-by-Sea in West Sussex years previously and had always talked about moving back at some point, so when our daughter, Liv, was just a few months old, we put our London home on the market and decided to go for it,' explains Mette. 'We couldn't believe our luck when we found this place right on the beach. After years of city living, it was the sort of location we had long dreamed of.'

The three-bedroom house had seen better days, having been built in the Fifties to replace properties demolished during the Second World War. It was covered in cheap plastic cladding,

had a wobbly extension at the rear and had been poorly maintained, leaving it vulnerable to the elements. 'There were numerous leaks and lots of salt-water damage,' says Mette. 'Also, the front door was at the side of the house, which wasn't very welcoming.' Inside, a tired kitchen, grotty bathrooms and multiple walls that divided up the living areas into small spaces needed rethinking.

Despite the negatives, the couple could see that the property had the potential to be special. They loved its boxy shape, as it would sit well with their ideas for Scandi-style, modern living. 'With my Danish roots, I'm drawn to the types of houses I grew up with,' says Mette. 'They tend to have simple, clean lines - the kind of design that suits our personalities and the way we live. Jon and I lead busy ➔

③ Dining area
The couple knocked down as many internal walls as possible to create the spacious open-plan kitchen-diner and living area

For similar chairs, try the About A Chair 22, £204 each, Hay range, AmbienteDirect.com



COSY UP FOR WINTER

Make open-plan spaces feel more welcoming by adding texture with rugs, upholstery and throws

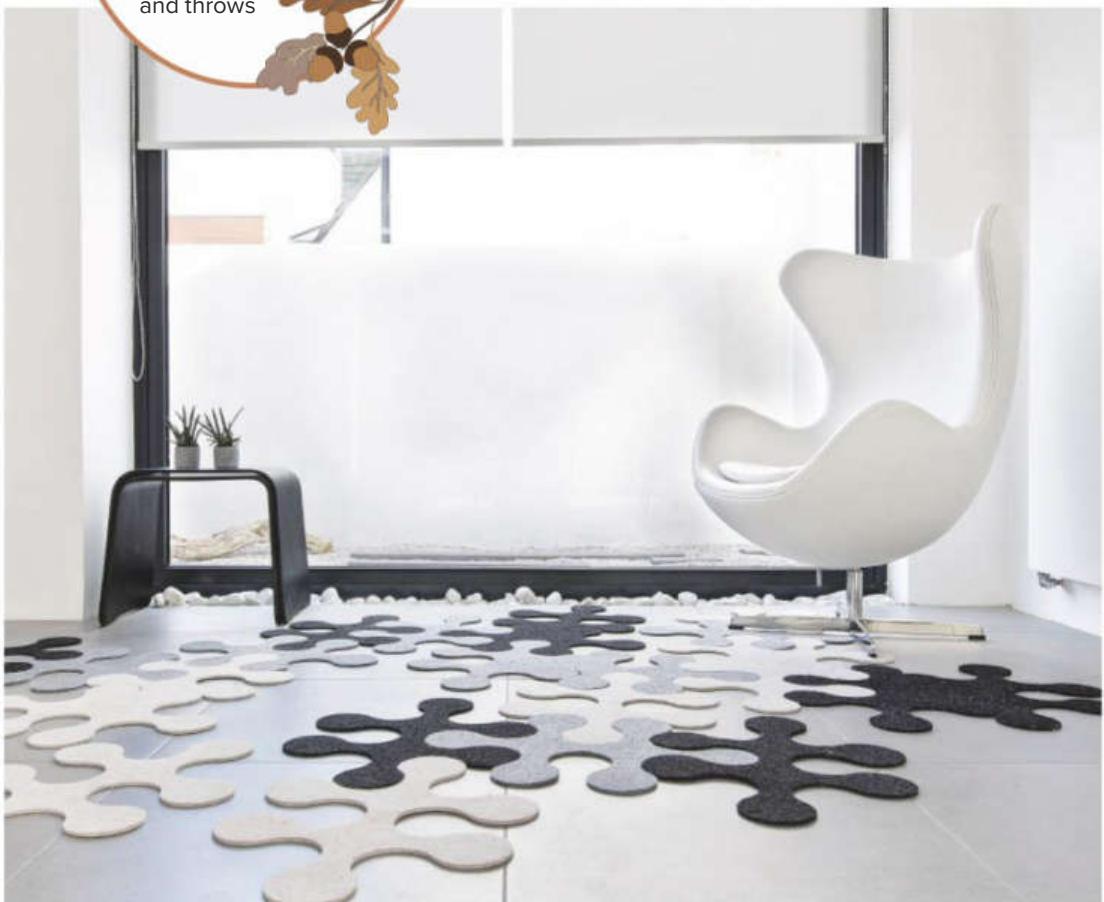


④ Kitchen

Solid blocks of white units create a fuss-free, modern look. 'We chose handleless doors for a sleek finish,' says Mette
Handleless white-gloss kitchen, £153 for a W600mm base unit, Designer range, Wren Kitchens

⑤ Hallway

An eye-catching rug and contemporary chair make a striking impression
Puzzle rug, £730, Fab New Home. AJ Egg chair, £395, A Modern World





'With my Danish roots, I'm drawn to the types of houses I grew up with. They tend to have simple, clean lines'

lives, so when we come home, we want our living spaces to be organised, clean and tidy.'

The couple's idea was to create a beach house influenced by modernist architecture. With only a small budget, they undertook a lot of the work themselves. Jon started on the basics, ripping out the old kitchen and clearing out the space. 'He was sleeping on a mattress on the floor,' explains Mette. 'The heating wasn't working and the house wasn't insulated, so it was freezing. We had two builders living with us for the first six months, but luckily for me, as Liv was still a baby, I divided my time between the house and my family in Denmark. In hindsight, we should've lived off site instead of staying in the house during the works.'

Mette and Jon retained the basic structure of the building, but changed elements to give it a more modern, streamlined look. The internal

layout was opened up, the floor levelled and a new kitchen and bathrooms were installed.

'We had a clear idea of how the house should look,' says Mette. 'Most importantly, we wanted to be able to appreciate the sea views as soon as we stepped into our living space.' This was to prove difficult, however, as by far the most challenging task was installing the floor-to-ceiling sliding doors on the ground floor, as well as the upstairs windows. Made to measure, the frames were engineered in Germany, then shipped over and installed on site. 'We mistakenly went with the cheapest quote to fit them and, consequently, our beautiful bespoke windows were poorly installed and leaked constantly,' says Mette. 'It took us almost a year of complaining to get the workmen to sort the problem, and during that time we lived with hardboard at the windows to protect us from ➤'

➊ Main bedroom

Mette sprayed the antique bedside mirror white to blend in with the rest of the décor. For a similar headboard, try the Prague panel, from £42.99; for a similar mirror, try the Vittoria, £32.99; both Wayfair. For a similar bedspread, try the classic cotton quilted, from £49, Soak&Sleep

➋ Bathroom

Contemporary fittings create a streamlined look. The large bath is perfect for long, relaxing soaks. For a similar bath, try the Wash freestanding ThermaForm, £699, Bathstore



3 of the best PATTERNED RUGS



£165

Geometric chic
Plush wool with a striking pattern
Triangle wool rug in grey (W160cm x L230cm), Tesco Direct



£70

Zig-zag lines
Smart charcoal grey with a woven design
Wool chevron bobble rug (W100cm x L150cm), Next



£275

X factor
Monochrome stripes with neon-pink edges
X hand made tufted rug (W140cm x L200cm), Oliver Bonas



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'We couldn't believe our luck when we found this place right on the beach. After years of city living, it was the sort of location we had long dreamed of'

the elements, which blocked out the view and light. When they were finally fixed and the boards were taken down, the house was flooded with light – it was amazing.'

Mette and Jon saved money on furnishing the interior by shopping online or going direct to suppliers. 'Modernist principles are not very forgiving and are labour intensive, as such high standards are required to get things perfect, which often means choosing between practicality, style and budget,' explains Mette. 'So we salvaged what we could from the original house, then hunted online for designer-inspired pieces. Even Liv helped, painting canvas artworks for the walls.'

Painted white throughout, Mette and Jon's home could easily have ended up feeling cold and unwelcoming, but the clever use of warm,

natural materials makes it a cosy and friendly home. Resisting the urge to use too much bright colour, they have decorated in a soft monochrome palette that beautifully reflects the constantly changing seascape beyond the windows. Occasional bursts of red show these stormy shades off beautifully. 'The reason for all the grey, which is a very Danish colour, is because it enhances the limited amount of daylight we have in winter,' says Mette.

She thinks that this way of life isn't for everyone. 'Living in a house such as this is like being in a glass box with everything on show and we're very exposed to the elements,' she says, 'but we love the breathtaking seascapes and the fact that we can open up our home to the beach, so it becomes an extension of our garden. We feel healthier just being here.' ➤



9 Hallway

Mette and Jon replaced the old front door with a simple, modern version. Storage baskets made from recycled car tyres

stow shoes and socks

Tyre baskets, from £22 each, Darwinshome.com

10 Hallway

The original wooden stairs have been painted in black gloss. Under the stairs is storage for Liv's toys

For a similar shelving unit, try the Kallax eight-window, £45, Ikea

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Putting warmth at the heart of the home

⑪ Dining area

A desk next to the window provides a place for Liv to paint in the sunshine
For a similar desk, try the Can't, £590, Blu Dot range, Heal's

**⑫ Landing**

The couple chose engineered-wood flooring. 'It's easy to clean,' says Mette
For similar flooring, try the engineered-oak reclaim black UV oiled, from £42.09 per sq m, Wood and Beyond

**DON'T MISS
the details**

Mette and Jon added personality to their minimalist home with quirky furniture and accessories

⑬ Living room

An eye-catching unicorn head adds a sense of fun
For a similar unicorn head, try the wooden animal trophy, £65, MyHaus range, Notonthehighstreet.com

**⑭ Liv's room**

White walls have been livened up with playful stickers and colourful furnishings
For similar stickers, try the Slätttult, from £4, Ikea. Nos Da throw, £210, SCP range, Cimbermann



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HARVEYS



Get Mette's look

Create a relaxed Scandi scheme with lots of natural elements

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

IDEAL

Shades of grey
Keep to a soft, tonal colour palette throughout
Herringbone cushion, Marks & Spencer

£49.50



£49

Stuff of legends

For a playful, mystical touch, display this wooden unicorn
Wooden unicorn head (H43cm), Safari Life range, Cult Furniture

£2,437

Recycled style
Strong and flexible storage
Recycled tyre log holder, Woodburner Warehouse

£150



£60

Full pelt

Drape it over the sofa
Sheepskin rug in grey (L100cm x W60cm), Nordic House



£999

Corner cool

Zone your space in style

Vittorio corner sofa in Pearl Grey (H81cm x W289cm x D151/90cm), Made.com



GREAT DEAL

Soft option
Get chic on the cheap with this linen-look woven cushion
Grey weave cushion, Wilko

£7



Flame on

Enjoy flames at the flick of a switch with this wall-hung fire
Focal Point Charnmouth black LED display electric fire, B&Q



£25

Stag do

This plywood deer slots together easily
Wall Décor plywood stag head trophy deer (H56cm), Design 55

Logging in
This one is sturdy and stylish
Recycled tyre log basket, Tread range, Notonthehighstreet.com



£42.95



£69.99

Think mink

Or cosy up with this Mink double pelt sheepskin rug (L160cm x W50cm), Dunelm



Solid choice

Versatile modular seating
Kivik sofa in Ramna (H83cm x W318cm x D163/95cm), IKEA

£705

'We decorated on a shoestring'

Copy Siobhan Lam and Jamie Hughes's eclectic look by mixing second-hand and upcycled furniture

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



1 Living area

The couple fitted the fire surround themselves. 'We uncovered the beautiful bricks and decided to paint them with a watered-down emulsion,' says Siobhan. 'The shelves in the alcoves are from Ikea, which we cut down to fit the space' Le Bric coffee table, £299, Made.com. Lack wall shelves, £10 each; Knappa pendant light, £16; all Ikea

The big
CHANGE

CONVERTING THREE BEDSITS
BACK INTO ONE HOUSE,
REMOVING WALLS,
REPLUMBING, REWIRING,
AND DECORATING
THROUGHOUT





'We knew we wanted an open-plan layout, with industrial-style exposed brickwork and floorboards'



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£365,000	£34,000	£850,000

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, terraced house in Dublin, built in 1890. The owners bought it in June 2011.

WHAT IT COST

Structural work.....	£21,500
Electrics and plumbing.....	£3,500
Windows and doors.....	£2,500
Kitchen.....	£4,500
Bathroom.....	£2,000
TOTAL.....	£34,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Siobhan Lam and Jamie Hughes, with their dog, Gizmo. Siobhan runs an online interiors company and Jamie is a retail manager.

THE LOOK

Eclectic, with distressed surfaces, industrial-style furniture and plenty of retro and quirky details.



LESSONS LEARNED

“Make sure you get professional advice if you are doing structural work, so you have a good idea of the costs and know what’s involved.”



◀ FIRST FLOOR
Upstairs, there's a half landing leading to the bathroom and the main bedroom at the rear. More stairs lead up to two bedrooms – one of which Siobhan uses as her office



GROUND FLOOR ▶
The living room and dining room are to the left of the hall, with the kitchen at the back of the house. There's a cloakroom under the stairs



Keen to buy their first home together, Siobhan Lam and Jamie Hughes had been searching for what seemed like an eternity to find their ideal place, but when Siobhan spotted this terraced house in Dublin in 2011, she knew it was the one. 'The building was split into bedsits, and when it came to viewings, the tenants weren't very obliging, so I only saw the upstairs and none of the downstairs, but I could see the potential,' says Siobhan. 'There was a lot of interest, so I put in an offer there and then, without Jamie even seeing it.'

Once the couple's offer had been accepted, they set about planning the look they wanted to achieve. 'We had plenty of time as it took six months to get the keys to the property, by which point we knew we wanted an open-plan layout, with industrial-style exposed brickwork and floorboards,' says Siobhan. To save money, the couple decided to live in the upstairs bedsit while they worked on the downstairs.

The house was gutted, rewired and replumbed, while the ground floor was opened up and ➤

③ Living room

The corner sofa was given to the couple by Siobhan's parents. 'It was so large that we had to make the opening into the room bigger to get it in,' says Siobhan

For a similar sofa, try the Palladium corner in Shell, £3,495, DFS. Ampersand cushions, £42.95 each, Room 356 range, Notonthehighstreet.com

④ Kitchen

Using blackboard paint is a great way of creating a feature wall that can be used to write memos and messages on. Chalkboard blackboard paint, from £28.14 for 1ltr, Ecos Organic Paints. Bekväm birch kitchen trolley, £35, Ikea



5 Kitchen

'We found the old chemistry-lab stools in a second-hand shop,' says Siobhan. 'They add a nice retro vibe' For similar bar stools, try the Soho, £75 each, Rockett St George. Australia Blanco tiles, from £60 per sq m, TileStyle





6 Main bedroom

Siobhan has used washi tape to create a unique feature wall. Intergalactic cushions, from £27 each; MT masking tape, from £2.40 for a 10m roll; all April and the Bear

'I wanted a neutral backdrop so I could introduce colour with accessories, which can be added to or updated every so often'

had a window and French windows fitted to brighten up the space. A rickety spiral staircase was removed and the old kitchen was torn out and replaced with a new one from Ikea.

On a tight budget, the couple decided to tackle as much of the work as they could themselves, knocking down walls, pulling down ceilings and ripping up floors. 'Jamie is very hands on and his father is a carpenter, so he really helped us and gave us the confidence to tackle jobs that we would otherwise have handed over to builders,' says Siobhan.

With the help of Jamie's father, the couple managed to fit a new kitchen themselves. 'We wanted something simple and practical, so

opted for glossy white units with stainless-steel appliances and metro tiles,' says Siobhan.

They stopped short of doing the hard labour themselves, though: 'We knew our limitations and hired a structural engineer to give advice on load-bearing walls and used builders to put in the steel supports that were needed in the living space and kitchen,' says Siobhan.

Having never done a project like this before, it was a huge undertaking for the couple, and doing the work themselves meant it was a drawn-out process taking nearly two years to complete. 'We spent all our free time working on the house,' says Siobhan. 'All our evenings and weekends were given over to the project; ➤



COSY UP FOR WINTER

Invest in a luxurious, freestanding, roll-top bath, so you can indulge in long soaks on chilly days



7 Bathroom

A classic slipper bath is teamed with exposed stone and a chrome towel rail for an industrial look. 'We moved a wall in this room to make it bigger and fitted a Velux window to bring in more light,' explains Siobhan

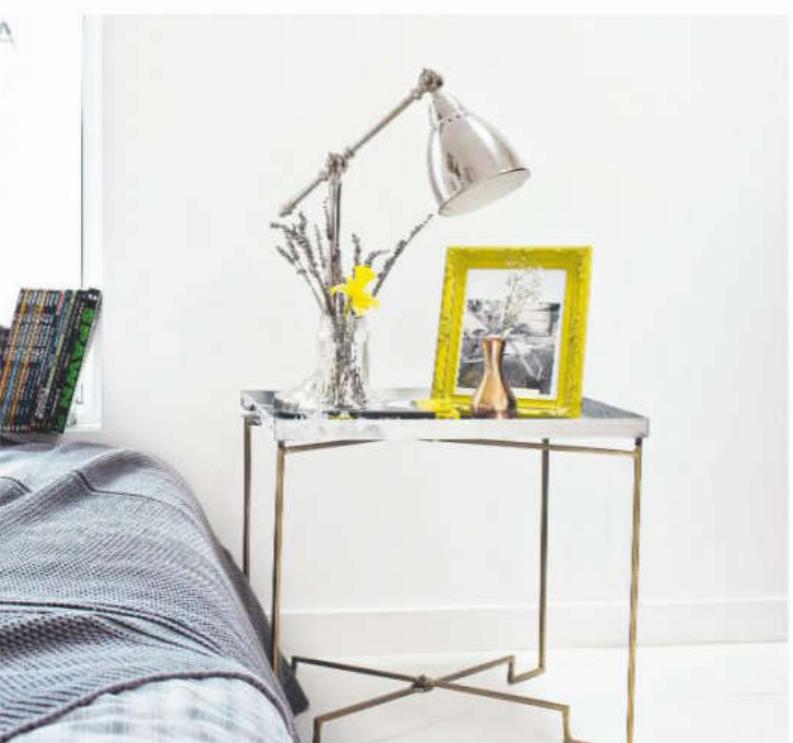
Slipper bath, from £335; heated towel rail, from £48; both The Bathroom Factory Store. Archgres slate floor tiles, from £57 per sq m, TileStyle



8 Main bedroom

Splashes of yellow add a bright touch. 'I'm thinking of painting the dining chairs in the same shade,' says Siobhan

Barometer work lamp, £27, Ikea. Foldable tray table, from £169, April and the Bear



3 of the best WALL LIGHTS

Rustic charm

A mix of natural oak and grey enamel Bermondsey wall light, Garden Trading



£65

Hit of colour

Neat and simple in a rich petrol-blue tone Truman wall lamp in Memphis Blue, Made.com



£39

Industrial look

Retro style in a pewter and copper finish Orlando vintage balloon cage wall light, Industville



£79

 DURAVIT



CAPE COD

The new bathroom series by Philippe Starck. info@uk.duravit.com www.duravit.co.uk



Office

'This room is lovely and light and has wonderful views across the canal,' says Siobhan
Long cage lighter (on table), from £39,
April and the Bear

it was really hard work and we were both longing for the day when we weren't covered in dust and living on a building site, but we were very motivated and determined to get the house we wanted, which kept us going.'

Once the downstairs was complete, the couple started work on the upstairs. 'We opened up the bedsit at the front of the house, which was originally a small kitchen and living room, and is now my home office,' says Siobhan. 'At the back of the house we made the bathroom bigger by repositioning a wall.'

When it came to furnishing the rooms, Siobhan plundered local second-hand shops. 'I have a magpie's eye for the quirky and unusual, and am always picking up bits and bobs from vintage fairs and charity shops,' she says. 'Most of the furniture here is second-hand stuff that has been rejuvenated with a lick of paint. We were also given lots of pieces by family and friends, which saved us a huge



10 Office

Siobhan uses the front bedroom, which was once a bedsit, as an office
Striped cushions made in Sofia fabric, £6 per m, Ikea

'I'm always picking up bits and bobs from vintage fairs and charity shops'

amount of money. It's very satisfying to have created a stylish home on a shoestring.'

The décor throughout is a mix of white walls, painted floorboards, exposed brickwork and charcoal-grey accents. 'I wanted a neutral backdrop so I could introduce bursts of colour with accessories, which can be updated every so often,' says Siobhan, who runs interiors company April and the Bear (aprilandthebear.com). 'It also allowed me to experiment with murals using washi tape, which makes a great alternative to wallpaper.'

The hard work has paid off and the couple now have a totally different house from the one they bought. 'It was worth all the late nights and full-on weekends,' says Siobhan. 'There were a few ups and downs, but you have to keep your eye on the end result and keep going. There's still a bit left to do, but I think renovation projects are never finished. Let's just say, it's very much a work in progress!' ➤



Karndean
Designflooring

Crayon vs. Karndean: Anna's Story

"I remember a week after we'd had Karndean laid in the lounge we had family visit. The kids were in the living room colouring, and I walked in to find a great big yellow line of crayon across the floor!"

"But I needn't have worried because it cleaned off so easily - it took less than five minutes and I learnt a lesson that day!"

Watch Anna's story at:
karndean.com/anna



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Karndean story?
www.karndean.com



**11 Hallway**

The couple left the stair treads exposed, as they like the distressed look of the wood

For a similar tree wallpaper, try the Woods, £72 per roll, Cole & Son

**12 Dining area**

Industrial-style radiators from a salvage yard were repainted to give them a new lease of life

For a similar radiator paint, try the black satin, £12.99 for 400ml, Homebase

**DON'T MISS
the details**

Add character by introducing distressed finishes, colourful artworks and quirky accessories

13 Office

The old cabinet and records were given to Siobhan by her parents

For a similar cabinet, try a selection, The French Depot

**14 Living area**

A wall-mounted coat rack offers hanging space and keeps the entrance clutter free

For similar coat hooks, try the Hang Em High, £32.99, WorldStores

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Love Siobhan's style?

Give a simple kitchen-diner cool, quirky touches with industrial accessories and vintage pieces

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KITCHEN-DINER



FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS PHILIP LAUTERBACH

£49

Factory style

Hang two pendant lights for a striking, sculptural effect
Industry ceiling light, Habitat

£90

Pleasure dome

Show off favourite finds
Glass display dome (H30cm), St Aidan's Homeware Store

£39

Industrial edge

Keep it casual with mismatched chairs
Marseille metal chair in silver, Tesco Direct

Spelled out
Add a retro edge with a metal sign
Exit Way Out sign, Lindsay Interiors

£16.99



ASK SIOBHAN

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

'The location. It's really near the city centre. I also love that it's beautifully bright since we opened it up downstairs and fitted new doors and windows.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL INTERIORS SHOP?

'A second-hand shop called The 3rd Policeman. There are always some cool and interesting pieces to be had.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR WORST DECORATING DISASTER?

'Painting my dining chairs without priming them first. The paint blistered and chipped off, so I had to sand it all off and start again.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET?

'Fill your house with things you love, and don't be afraid to use dark colours for mood and atmosphere.'

■ WHAT ITEM INSPIRED YOU?

'The sofa in the living room. My parents were getting rid of it and we both loved it. We had to make the doorway larger to get it in.'

Shabby chic

Go for reclaimed wood
Distressed extending dining table (H78cm x W90cm x L140 180cm), Amberly range, The Cotswold Company

£399

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ONLINE }

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NOVEMBER 2015 | 69



'Our house has had a colour overhaul'

A mix of deep contemporary hues and traditional style can look dramatic, as the Stentifords' individual home shows

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



① Living room

A mix of family treasures and eBay finds is set against dark-grey walls. 'I used the cowhide to pull all the colours together,' says Lucy. Walls painted in Peat Chalky Interior Matt, £47 for 2.5ltr, Marston & Langinger. For a similar sofa, try the Lino, from £2,025, Designers Guild. For a similar rug, try the extra large, from £185, Cowhide, rugslondon.co.uk

The big
CHANGE

REDECORATING
THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE
USING BOLD COLOUR AND
STATEMENT LIGHTING,
AND REVAMPING
THE KITCHEN



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£395,000	£10,000	£450,000

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom Victorian terrace in Hove, East Sussex. The owners bought it in July 2011.



WHAT IT COST

Rendering.....£1,000
Kitchen.....£2,000
Decoration and furniture....£4,000
Decking.....£1,000
Front garden.....£2,000
TOTAL.....£10,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Lucy and Philip Stentiford, with their children, Chloë, 17, and Amelia, 14, and Coco the cocker spaniel. Lucy owns interiors brand Slate Grey Sea, while Philip manages the creative and design teams for a lingerie company.

THE LOOK

Bold and individual, with a striking palette of greys and a mix of period features, modern art and mid-century furniture.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Don’t be scared to use strong colours on walls and floors. Also, when buying accessories for your home, go for good-quality designer pieces that will last.”

SECOND FLOOR ▶
Chloë’s bedroom and en-suite bathroom are in the attic space

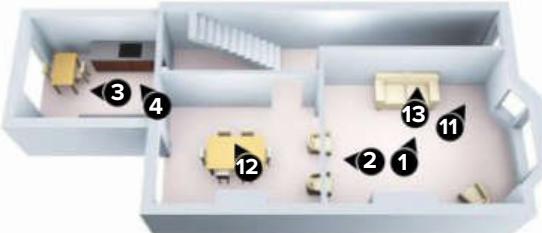


◀ FIRST FLOOR
Upstairs, there are two bedrooms, a bathroom and Lucy’s office



GROUND FLOOR ▶

The front door opens into the hall, with the stairs straight ahead. On the left is the living/dining room, with the kitchen-diner at the rear





② Dining area

Two mid-century chairs have been used to create a visual divider separating the dining and living areas. The green Kosta Boda vase on the mantelpiece inspired the room's colour accents. For similar chairs, try the low lounge, £2,682 each, Heal's. Arco lamp, from £1,565, Flos range, Made in Design



When Lucy Stentiford started searching for a new family home, top of her wish list was a property with plenty of period features that she could make her creative mark on. ‘As I walked through the door of this place, I knew it was the one,’ she says. ‘The style wasn’t mine, but the owners had done it very well. It had all these lovely details, such as chunky radiators and brass-dolly light switches, and the finish was very high quality.’ With its original fireplaces, beautiful cornicing and sash windows, the house was exactly what Lucy and her husband Philip were looking for, and the deal was sealed.

Lucy undertook a radical overhaul of the interior colour scheme, using a palette of grey shades that has transformed the house, with all its period features, into a stylish space. ‘I’ve always loved the colour grey because it has so

many beautiful shades and it looks good in changing light and all sorts of different situations,’ says Lucy. ‘I knew exactly what tones I wanted to use – I’ve been trained in design, which gave me the confidence to make it work – and Philip was totally up for it, too.’

However, before tackling the interior, the first thing Lucy did was to make over the house’s exterior, the lower half of which is now painted a cool dove grey, with a steel-grey front door. ‘There was a big hedge and a crumbling wall in the front garden,’ Lucy explains. ‘We had to remove the hedge to fix the wall, and the neighbours said we’d miss the privacy it gave, but the garden looks much better now you can see the railings.’

Next, the couple decided to smarten up the front path by laying classic black-and-white tiles. The effect is sharp and stylish, a look they have transferred to the back garden, where they’ve covered the courtyard with bamboo ➤

③ Kitchen

Lucy painted the existing cupboards to create a modern country scheme. The Eames dining chairs add an urban touch
Unit doors painted in French Gray Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For similar chairs, try the Eames DSR, £225 each, John Lewis

④ Kitchen

The limestone flooring was in the kitchen when the Stentifords bought their house. Phil found the Cunard poster and quirky wall clock on eBay
For similar floor tiles, try the Dorset tumbled, £34.90 per sq m, Stone Store



'I didn't want wooden worktops as the ones we'd had before had rotted, so I asked for the existing ones to be covered with zinc'



'I've always loved grey because it has so many shades and it looks good in changing light'

decking and painted the back wall in a pale grey shade to reflect light into the space.

In the kitchen, Lucy opted for a modern country feel with industrial touches, including zinc-covered worktops. 'I didn't want wooden worksurfaces, as the ones we'd had before had rotted,' says Lucy. 'I asked Ralph Levy from The Handmade House to cover them with zinc for me.' She completed the makeover by repainting the cupboard doors a grey shade with green undertones.

In the hallway and reception rooms, the décor changes dramatically from light and bright to dark and theatrical, with warm, thundery greys on the walls, sea-spray white on the ceilings and colour accents in zesty lime. Inspiration for the scheme came not from a colour chart but from a vibrant Kosta Boda vase she and Philip bought with some money they were given as a wedding present. 'I loved

the sharp kick of the lime and felt the grey tones would contrast well with it,' she says.

A strong shade was chosen for the living-room walls. 'I used Marston and Langinger's Peat, which is very matt and earthier than the Farrow & Ball Down Pipe I used in the hall,' says Lucy. Then it was easy to bring accent details to the room with accessories, such as the white stag's head, a graphic fabric Lucy has stretched over a large canvas frame and statement lighting, which is Philip's design contribution. 'His father was an architect and the light fitting in the middle of the room was a gift from him,' says Lucy. Two opaque cube lights double up as handy tables either side of the sofa and elegant mid-century furniture, as well as a striking cowhide rug that Philip brought back from Australia, complete this individual look.

Upstairs, the ambience changes again, with two bedrooms, a bathroom and Lucy's tiny ➤



➎ Main bedroom

The wardrobe doors came from an old French chateau. 'I didn't like them at first, but they've grown on me,' says Lucy. The William Morris-style chair was used as a highchair for Lucy when she was a baby. For similar shutters, try the selection at Etsy

➏ Main bedroom

A quilted throw and silk-covered headboard give this simply decorated room a touch of luxury. For a similar throw, try the silver velvet quilt, from £200, Laura Ashley





Get the
LOOK
PAGE 81



7 Bathroom

Lucy made the voile curtain to brighten up the window and added lime-green towels for a hit of vibrant colour

For a similar curtain fabric, try the 130121, from £33 per m, Fashion Interiors. For similar towels, try the Modena in Mojito, from £4 for a face cloth, Christy

3 of the best
POPS OF LIME



Ombre effect
A green glass base contrasts with the black shade and flex
Brantley table lamp in green, Very £55



Go geometric
This fabric was used on Underground trains
Piccadilly cushion, Kirkby Design range, John Lewis £39



High spirits
Introduce vintage style with this fun poster
A3 gin quote print (unframed), Of Life & Lemons £22

'It feels so good to be able to say that my home and where I live have truly inspired my creativity'



office all decorated in paler hues. A Philippe Starck pendant light inspired the scheme in the main bedroom. 'I loved the colour of the shade - a gentle copper hue,' says Lucy. 'It works well with the white wall paint, which has a slightly warm grey tinge to it.'

The shutter wardrobe doors were installed by the previous owners and had come from a French chateau. 'They wanted to take them when they moved, which I didn't mind initially, but then I realised it would be too complicated to replace them with something decent, so we kept them and I love them now,' she says.

Every day Lucy walks Coco, the family's cocker spaniel, on the beach where she photographs the changing colours of the sea and sky. 'I kept wondering what to do with all these images and decided to see if they could be printed onto silk,' she says. She spent a year researching the process, eventually sourcing a manufacturer and creating some designs that now grace the lampshades and cushions she sells under her own label, Slate Grey Sea, all inspired by those coastal walks and her love of the colour grey. 'It feels so good to be able to say that my home and where I live have truly inspired my creativity,' says Lucy. **1H**

8 Chloë's room

The blue-green colour scheme gives this bedroom a fresh, calm feel. Chloë made the decorative butterflies on the wall using the pages of a book

Walls painted in Teresa's Green Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Hector wall lights, £119 each, Original BTC range, John Lewis. For a similar bed, try the White Oxford, from £440, Debenhams

9 Chloë's en suite

'We decided not to change the fittings in here because the existing finish was good,' says Lucy

For similar floor tiles, try the Roches Grey, £44.40 per sq m, Topps Tiles. For a similar basin, try Bologna, £119, VictoriaPlum.com

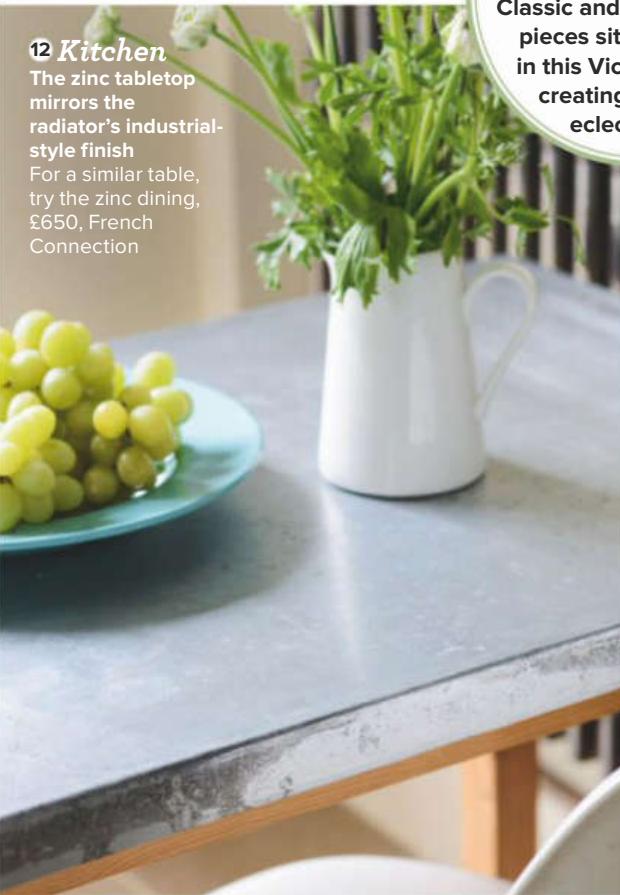


10 Main bedroom

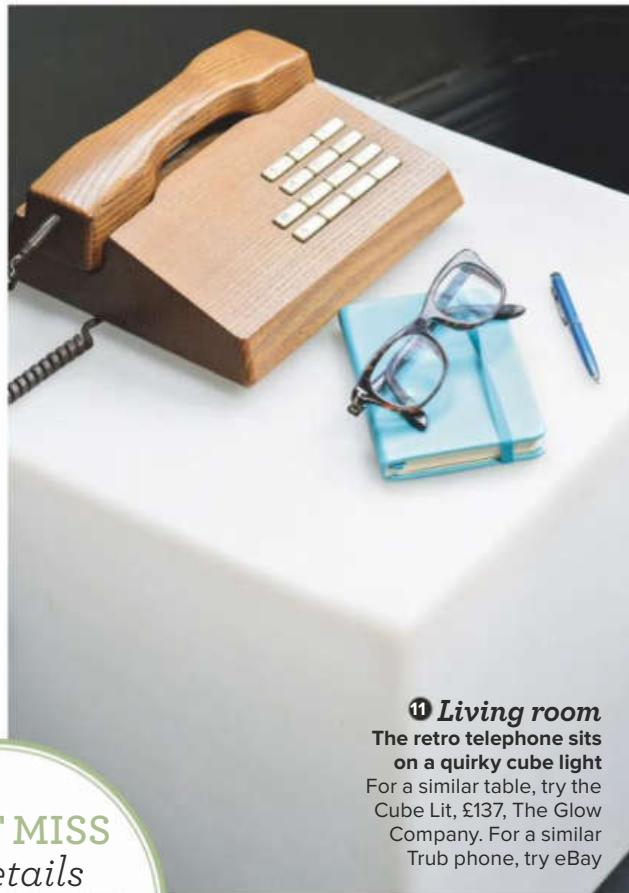
Lucy transformed the chest of drawers with a coat of paint and new knobs. Chest painted in Paris Grey chalk paint, from £18.95 for 1ltr, Annie Sloan

**12 Kitchen**

The zinc tabletop mirrors the radiator's industrial-style finish. For a similar table, try the zinc dining, £650, French Connection

**DON'T MISS
the details**

Classic and contemporary pieces sit side by side in this Victorian house creating a unique, eclectic look

**11 Living room**

The retro telephone sits on a quirky cube light. For a similar table, try the Cube Lit, £137, The Glow Company. For a similar Trub phone, try eBay

**13 Living room**

Lucy's photos of the sea have been printed onto fabric. Silk cushions, £75 each, Slate Grey Sea



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Love Lucy's style?

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FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE

BEDROOM



Add texture and pattern with rustic wood and digital prints



ASK LUCY

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME? 'The way it's allowed me to indulge my love of colour and design.'

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS 'Grey, grey, grey, grey, lime.'

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOMES BUY AND WHY?

'The Angela Smith painting in the dining area. She lets the gloss and enamel paint she uses create its own form: this one looks like a bubble.'

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL INTERIORS SHOP?

'Workshop Living in Brighton. It's so gorgeous and pared down, and sells things you can't get anywhere else. I also love Mrs Robinson's Store in Worthing for beautiful homeware and pieces of jewellery.'

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE NATIONAL INTERIORS SHOP AND WHY?

'Designers Guild. I worked there and adore its use of colour and sense of style.'

£129

£50

£16

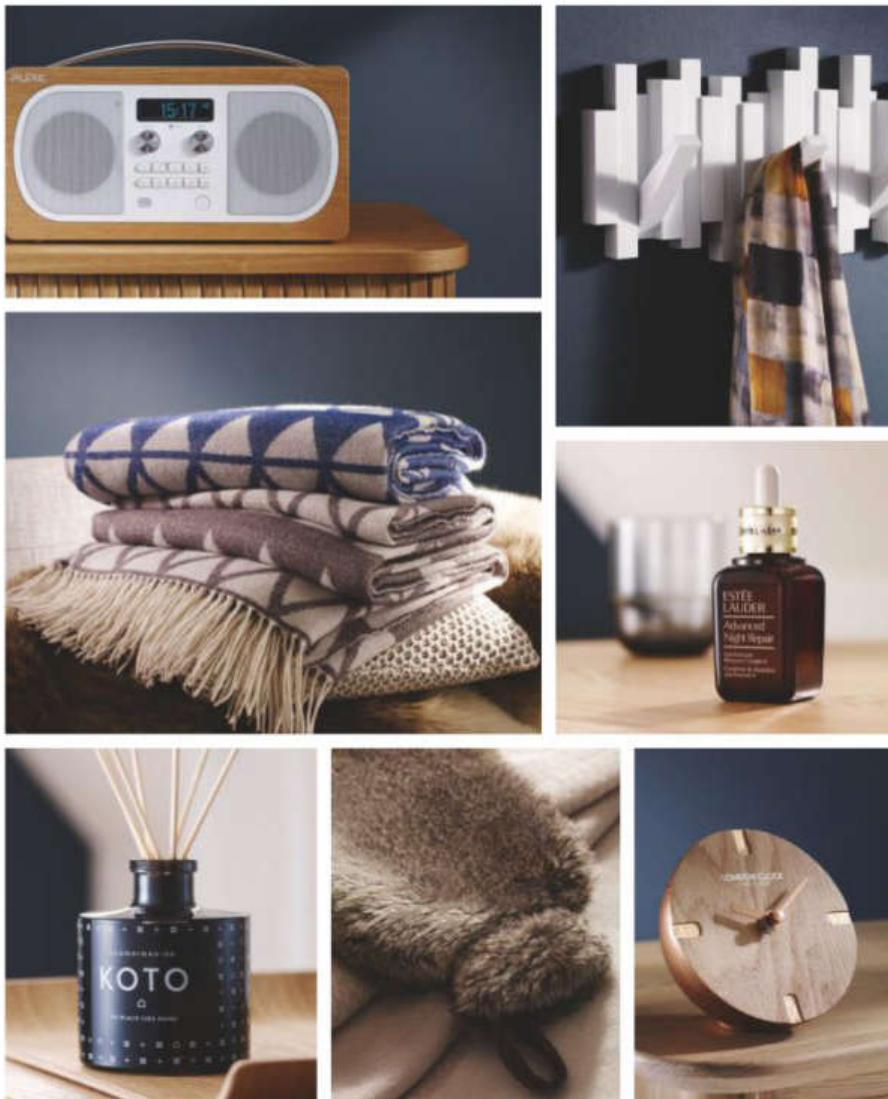
£75

£545

Shutter style
Screen off bedroom clutter
Eloise wooden folding screen (H171cm x W106cm x D3cm), Maisons du Monde

Nice legs
Add elegant curves
Isabelle bedside table in Dove Grey, Swoon Editions

£129



[THE EDIT]

CONTEMPORARY RENEWED

A Scandinavian sleep sanctuary

Pure Evoke D6 radio £179.95, Umbra wall hook £25, Kin scarf £40, Triangles throws £30 each, Honeybee cushion £20, Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair serum from £50, Skandinavisk diffuser £35, Hot water bottle and cover £20, Marker clock £40, Tom Raffield light £785, Viva bedstead £850, Florien pillowcases £18, Skyler duvet cover set £50, Elin and Prism cushions £25 each, Natural sheepskin £125, Geometric throw £120, Sisal rug £100, Viva bedside table £225, Apex lamp £65, House tumbler £3.50.

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BE INSPIRED, BE CREATIVE with NOVEMBER'S DECORATING IDEAS

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If you love the stylish schemes in Ideal Home, but aren't sure how to transform your own rooms, *we're here to help*. All great looks start with inspiring images, so *indulge in a research session* with our decorating section, then *build a moodboard* for your project. *We'll show you how* on page 86. For all the inspiration you need, turn the page...



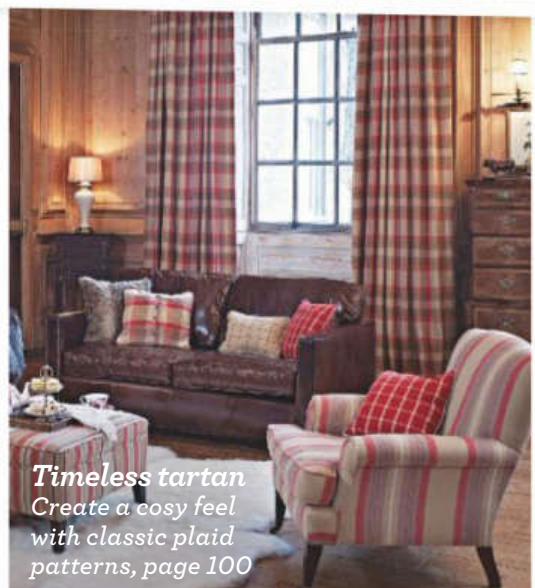
Country chic
Re-create this
boutique-hotel
look, page 108



Flower power
Add drama
with bold winter
florals, page 91



Natural charm
Team forest green
and tobacco for
a relaxed scheme,
page 104



Timeless tartan
Create a cosy feel
with classic plaid
patterns, page 100

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We use expert interior-design techniques to create our decorating looks. Each starts with a moodboard, like the ones here. Use one of these as a starting point for a stylish new scheme

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SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 104

FOREST GREEN & TOBACCO

Layer calm colours for a relaxed, autumnal feel

ULW1541 laminate **flooring**, £27.99 per sq m, Perspective Wide collection, Quick Step. Oblong leather **tray**, £95, Life of Riley. **Fabrics**, from top left: Asplin Spearmint V3151/01, £47 per m; Ashdown Ink V3154/01, £35 per m; both Villa Nova; Dune Malachite 7490/57, £32.50 per m, Romo; Asplin Ink V3151/04, £47 per m, Villa Nova. **Teapot**, £59, Ceramica Blue. Form **bowl**s, from £70 for five, Tom Dixon range, John Lewis. Teal matt **emulsion**, £41 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany





Design your own moodboard

Cheat your way to a professional finish

1 Choose your base colour

Whether it's flooring or a wall, the base colour will be the largest area of colour in your room, so place a generous sample of it onto your board. Including carpet samples will help you think about texture, too.

2 Add an accent tone

A dramatic contrast or an accent just a few tones away from your base colour? Use your moodboard to play with options and layer it with swatches of fabric, scraps of wallpaper and paint colour charts.

3 Find the right accessories

These will really set the tone in your room – go for ones that share an accent colour and stick to a single theme. Don't mix styles, or your finished scheme will look messy rather than effortlessly eclectic.



Hothouse hydrangeas

Go for impact with bold pops of orangey-pink

Ortensia **wallpaper**, £88 per roll, Fornasetti collection, Cole & Son. Temptation red **paperweight**, £36; Funnel Amethyst **vase**, £20; both Dartington range, Heal's. For a similar **notebook**, try the Wild Life Triangles, £3, Papercraft. Laminate burned planks IM1862 **flooring**, £19.99 per sq m, Impressive collection, Quick-Step



TURN OVER FOR MORE ►

**BLOOMING LILAC**

Add romance with a painterly feel

Lilac **mural** (240cm x 270cm), £252, National Gallery range, Surface View. Marble **condiment holder** with spoon, £49, Holly's House. **Side plate**, £6, Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser. Subway Shadow **vinyl matt emulsion**, £25.84 for 2.5ltr, Albany range, Designerpaint. Lara **napkin**, £5.49, LinenMe. Small Ingrid **plate**, £7.95, Graham and Green

**RAW RUSTIC**

Pep up neutral tones with heritage-style prints

Devon Bone **tiles**, £40.75 per sq m, Topps Tiles. **Cushion** made in Jacob Sheep, £48 per m, Emily Bond. Kintore in Cayenne **fabric**, £57 per m, Romo. For a similar **coat hook**, try the whitewash, £45, Rose & Grey. Hemstitch **napkin**, £11.50, The Linen Works. For a similar **tea towel**, try the Terrier, £10, Plum & Ashby. **Mat** (33cm), £19.50, David Mellor Design. Cat's Cradle **Claypaint**, £35 for 2.5ltr, Earthborn. **Mug**, £18; **ladle**, £16; both Rowen & Wren

Decorating?**FOLLOW THE 3 GOLDEN RULES**

1 THE 70-20-10 RULE For a balanced scheme, keep 70% of the elements (say, walls and floors) as one colour, then add 20% in a second colour (fabrics) and 10% in an accent (accessories).

2 THE PATTERN RULE When mixing patterns, use large with medium or medium with small, never large with small. Pick prints that share a colour in common.

3 THE PAINTED BOX RULE
The look of paint changes according to the time of day and the light in a room. Paint the inside of a large box with a tester to create a miniature 'room' and see how the colour changes within a 3D space.

AND FINALLY... Always add a surprise. A focal point – whether it's a feature wall or a piece of art – is the short cut to a 'wow' room.

**RESTFUL ROSE**

Build a dramatic palette of deep shades

Olivia **pillowcase** (background), £59 for a double duvet set, Marks & Spencer. Velvet and linen **cushion** in Fig, £30, John Lewis. Sisal Small Boucle C **flooring** in Anthracite, £53 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Pink **rose faux spray**, £12, Bloom. Lia **mug**, £7, Habitat. Duke's House **Marble Matt Emulsion**, £38 for 2.5ltr, Mylands. Urn **vase**, £20, Dartington range, Heal's. Classic **candle**, £28, True Grace



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Luxaflex
window styling



BE SEDUCED BY *Winter florals*

Country florals might be the mainstay of fresh spring and summer looks, but these darker interpretations create drama and decadence all year

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO PAGE 98

Give your home a warm, sumptuous feel with sultry colour and statement flower prints.

THE RULES

1. PICK THE PERFECT FLORAL

Look for oversized patterns on a dark background. Think traditional, but with a modern twist: trailing prints in silhouette; painterly designs in bold colours.

2. MIX A DUSKY PALETTE

Make it cosy by using sultry colours, such as grey or purple.

3. ADD AN ACCENT COLOUR

Lift the look with a touch of fresh green, shiny metallic finishes, or even a hint of neon colour.

4. BE SELECTIVE

Keep it elegant by limiting florals to one area – this could be on walls or fabrics.

5. STRIKE A BALANCE

Ensure you use large areas of block colour to counteract busy pattern.



GIVE WALLS WOW FACTOR

Pick a wallpaper in a dark colourway to create a mellow mood – we used Ortensia, £88 per roll, Fornasetti range, Cole & Son. Paint the other walls to match the background colour or paper all four walls for impact – as long as furniture and flooring are plain and simple, it won't be too much.

ADD IMPACT WITH A MURAL

Create a striking backdrop to an elegant dining area with an oil-painting-style mural. Colourful flower designs really pop against a monochrome base. We used the Lilac mural, £60 per sq m, The National Gallery Collection, Surface View.

IDEA

Choose black dining furniture that will allow a dramatic mural to take centre stage

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Blooming Lilac



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 86



IDEA

A contemporary metal coffee table will make a traditional scheme feel more glamorous

PICK A FABULOUS FLORAL FABRIC

Touches of a colourful, flamboyant print on a dark background will bring a room in a muted palette to life. Limit it to curtains and a couple of cushions – we used Floribunda in Magenta, £28 per m, Clarke & Clarke.



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Vibrant Bouquets



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 86

IDEAL HOME ❤ MOODBOARD

Restful Rose



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 86

IDEA

Tie lighting into
the scheme by
matching pendants
to the colour used
on the walls



ADD SUMPTUOUS FLORAL DETAILS

If dark florals on walls
are too much for you, add
oversized botanicals to
a bedroom scheme using
bed linen, bold artwork
or a floral-patterned rug
instead. This bed linen
set is the Olivia, £59 for a
double, Marks & Spencer.

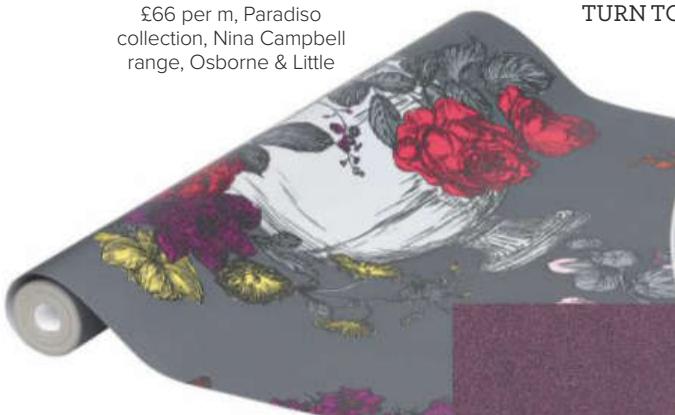
LUXE TOUCH
Bring in a vibrant hit of colour against dark bedding or sofas
Magenta 130398, £54 per m, Folia Velvets collection, Harlequin



DARK ROMANCE
Use a painterly fabric for a decadent touch
Midnight Garden in Velvet, £98 per m, House of Hackney



ROSES ARE RED
A stylised posy repeat looks striking on black
Rosa Alba NCF3942 05, £66 per m, Paradiso collection, Nina Campbell range, Osborne & Little



FLORAL FANCY
Available in nine colours
Floribunda wallpaper in Magenta, £49 per roll, Clarke & Clarke range, Wallpaperdirect

GRAND DESIGN
This fantastic fake will give the illusion of grandeur
Classical XV Panelling wallpaper, £39 per roll, Rockett St George



THE PALETTE

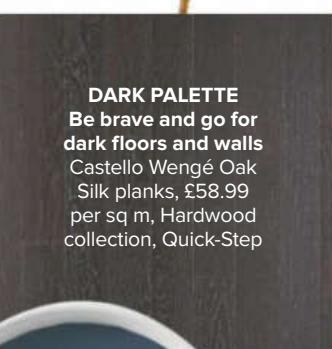
Winter florals

Pair decadent florals with dark blue and berry tones

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



REGAL BERRY
Add instant drama with a deep shade
Pelt Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



DARK PALETTE
Be brave and go for dark floors and walls
Castello Wengé Oak Silk planks, £58.99 per sq m, Hardwood collection, Quick-Step

MOODY HUES
Try this on skirting boards and door frames
Monument water-based eggshell, £57 for 2.5ltr, Paint & Paper Library range, Designerpaint

COLOUR THERAPY
There's no place for neutrals in a scheme like this
Carpet in Damson, £40 per sq m, Bell Twist range, Brintons



NIGHT SHADE
Be bold and go for midnight blue
Hick's Blue Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

Find all the details IN THESE PICTURES

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



p92 HOME OFFICE DECORATION AND FURNITURE
Ortensia wallpaper, £88 per roll, Cole & Son. IM1862 flooring, £19.99 per sq m, Quick-Step.

Undertones rug, from £100, Plantation Rug Company. Omega desk, £2,340, Natuzzi Italia. Chair, £79, John Lewis. Cabinet, £315, Graham and Green. Storage bin, £69, West Elm. **ON DESK LAMP**, £129, West Elm. Mug, £6, John Lewis. For similar scissors, try the gardener's, £17.50, Hen & Hammock. Two-drawer chests, £30.95 each, The Holding Company. Funnel vase, £20, Heal's. Clock, £16, Sainsbury's. For a similar jug, try the utensil, £9.95, Rockett St George. **IN CABINET** For a similar vase, try the Kindred, £30; paperweight, £36; both Heal's



p93 DINING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE
WALL painted in Subway Shadow Vinyl Matt Emulsion, £25.84 for 2.5ltr, Albany range, Designerpaint. Lilac mural

(240cm x 270cm), £252, National Gallery range, Surface View. **FLOOR** painted in Black floor paint, £34.15 for 2.5ltr, Bedec range, C Brewer & Sons. Plain rug, from £40, John Lewis. Sanela curtains, £55 for two, Ikea. Upton console table, £995, Oka. Canton dining table, £995, Lombok. Eames style dining chairs, £49 each, Out & Out Original. **ON SIDEBOARD** (from top left) Zinc vase, from £35, French Connection. Tassel napkins, £16 for four, John Lewis. Basics soda glasses, £1 each, Tesco Direct. Prisma photo frame, from £12; medium Ingrid bowl, £9.95; small Ingrid plates,

£7.95 each; all Graham and Green. Bubble votives, from £25 each, Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser. Large Canyon vase, £50, Abigail Ahern range, Rockett St George. Water hyacinth baskets, £19 each, The Holding Company. **ON TABLE** Medium Ingrid bowls, as before. Everyday Value cutlery, £2.50 for a 16 piece set, Tesco Direct. Vase, from £30, Dartington range, Heal's. Marble condiment holder with spoon, £49, Holly's House. Lara napkins, £5.49 each, LinenMe. Side plates, £6 each; dinner plates, £8 each; all Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser



p94 LIVING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE
WALLS painted in Oratory Marble Matt Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Mylands. **FLOOR** painted in Black floor paint, £34.15 for 2.5ltr; Bedec range,

linen, from £1,495; Achilles armchairs in Twilight textured cotton, £995 each; all Loaf. Chichester bookcase, £1,325, Neptune. For a similar fire surround, try the Gallery Durrington 42, from £485, Flames.co.uk. **Side table**, £160, French Connection. Grayson floor lamp, £160, John Lewis. Windsor console, £185, Next. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Midnight Bloom platter, £10, Sainsbury's. **Mug**, £27; jug, £40; both Luma Direct. Grey Smoked vase, £45, House of Fraser. Classic candle, from £25, True Grace. Medium Mervyn Gers bowl, £25, Heal's. **ON SOFA CUSHIONS**, from left: made in Floribunda

Magenta, as before; navy velvet, £30, Graham and Green; for a similar purple, try the velvet, £20, Cox & Cox; Keepsake Rose, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. **ON LEFT ARMCHAIR** Square Mustard cushion, £35, Graham and Green. **Cushion** made in Floribunda Magenta, as before. **ON SIDE TABLE** Mug, as before. **ON RIGHT ARMCHAIR** Cushion made in Floribunda Magenta, as before. **ON/ABOVE FIRE SURROUND** Crittall mirror, £345; Canyon vase, £25; both Rockett St George. **Tealight holders**, from £8 each, French Connection. For a similar vase, try the Groove, £17.95, Idyll Home. Faux rose sprays, £12 each,

Bloom. **Photo frame**, from £20, John Lewis. Grey vase, £35, House of Fraser. **ON BOOKCASE** Tall pleated vase, small £23; large £30; both Graham and Green. **Photo frame**, £21.50, Holly's House. Millie photo frame, £16, Oliver Bonas. Water hyacinth baskets, £19 each, The Holding Company. **ON/ABOVE CONSOLE** Poshe vase, £50, John Lewis. Faux peony stems, £15.95 for three; Prisma photo frame, from £12; all Graham and Green. Faux foxglove stems, £15 each, Bloom. candle, £25, Stoneglow Candles. Carnations And Clematis In A Crystal Vase art print, from £14.95, King & McGaw



p96 BEDROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE
WALL painted in Duke's House Marble Matt Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr; Mylands. **ALCOVES** painted in Down Pipe Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Sisal Small Boucle C flooring in Anthracite, £53 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Sade rug (120cm x 170cm), £170, Plantation Rug Company. Deep Blue Rowan pendant

lights (diameter 22cm), £120 each, Luma Direct. Poppy king size bed in Liquorice, £820, Button & Sprung. Velvet ottoman in Dusk, £395, Oliver Bonas. Beaton chest of drawers, £1,395, Oka. Betsy bedside table, £395, Graham and Green. **ON BED** Olivia double bedding, £59 for the set, Marks & Spencer. Velvet and linen cushions in Fig, £30 each, John Lewis. **Cushion** covered

in Mimosa in Charcoal (front), £38.50 per m; Arielli Linen (back), £28.50 per m; both Voyage Decoration. Grey basket knit throw, £100, Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser. Geometric throw in Steel, £120, John Lewis. **ON OTTOMAN** Lamb's wool throw, £60; for a similar scarf, try the Smudge, £60, Fay Et Fille range; both John Lewis. **ON/ABOVE CHEST OF DRAWERS** Brock lamp,

£120, BHS. **Bottle vase**, £16, French Connection. Pink rose faux sprays, £12 each, Bloom. Urn vase, £20, Dartington range, Heal's. Classic candle, from £25, True Grace. Bone frame, £20, Graham and Green. Lia mug, £7, Habitat. Vase De Pivoines art print, from £14.95, King & McGaw. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE** Kindred vase, £40, Dartington range, Heal's. Classic candle, as before

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PICK THE Perfect pattern

Need inspiration? Check out the best of this season's fabrics and wallpapers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Play around with tartans

WHY WE LOVE THEM One of the oldest and best-known patterns in the world, tartan is traditionally associated with Scotland's ancient Highland clans, with each family having its own design. Its history makes it suited to a traditional country look, but tartan can add colour and interest to any room, if the mix is right.

WHERE TO USE THEM Ideal for living and dining rooms, tartan creates a warm, cosy ambience and is perfect as an autumnal update. For a grand, baronial look, try tartan wallpaper in the bedroom as a backdrop for a sumptuous bed piled high with tartan cushions and a plaid throw. Softer tones

create a fresh, modern feel and work really well in an open-plan kitchen-diner or living room.

HOW TO USE THEM Upholster an armchair as a bold contrast against a plain sofa, use them for curtains and cushions in a neutral scheme, or wallpaper a wall as a feature. Tartan looks good with tweed, stripes and blocks of colour, but it's best to pick out the dominant tone and use it to tie the scheme together.

HOW TO ACCESSORISE

THEM Create log-cabin chic with wood and leather furniture, faux-fur rugs and stag heads, or for a more sophisticated feel, contrast a smart tartan with white woodwork, streamlined furniture and natural textures.

3 places to buy TARTAN PRINTS

Abraham Moon & Sons Founded in 1837, the brand still makes wool fabrics in its own mill. Try the lightweight Moonlight collection, from £35.40 per m.

Fabrics & Papers A big choice of check and plaid fabrics suitable for upholstery and curtains from a range of companies. Tartans start at £49.90 per m.
Sanderson Check out Woodford Plaid from the Highland Wools collection, £78 per m, in nine colours, from deep indigo to earthy olive/terracotta.



SUBTLE STATEMENT
Soften the impact of this large-scale tartan by choosing a soft pastel colourway
Vincent Pink wallpaper, £76 per roll, Rydal collection, Sandberg



'Stick to the same design and colours throughout your scheme, as tartan is a pattern that is difficult to mix and match'

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor



IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on these bright tartans

HIGHLAND FLING

A traditional pure wool tartan in a bold colourway

Lomond Tartan
F5880-06,
Osborne & Little

£107
per m²



GREAT SCOT

The pretty pink weave will add a fresh twist
Strathmore in Raspberry, Voyage Decoration

£39
per m²

TOP 10 Wallpapers

Elegant plaid prints

Transport yourself to the Highlands with these tartan designs

1

Subtle effect

Soft cream and a delicate red weave create a relaxed, understated look
Plaid cream and red, £10 per roll, B&Q



2

Pretty in pink

Add a feminine feel with this rose-coloured tartan, ideal for a bedroom
Inga 110285 Lipstick Linen Apple, £43 per roll, Harlequin



3

Modern update

This restyle of a heritage design is fresh yet timeless
Modern Tartan FG059/V87, £85 per roll, Mulberry Home range, Amara



4

Zesty choice

Choose lime green and warm pink for a chic look
Fairburn Green/Pink 252702, £18.98 per roll, Lochs & Lagoons collection, Arthouse



5

Bold backdrop

The wide stripes of this contemporary design work well in larger spaces
Vincent Pink, £76 per roll, Rydal collection, Sandberg

More over the page...

THE TOP 10 WALLPAPERS ...continued

'Perfect for creating an eye-catching feature wall, you should use tartan sparingly as it can dominate a room'

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor

6

Rustic twist

This textured design has a soft country feel
Arthouse Vintage Fairburn Neutral, £12 per roll, Wilko

7

Purple haze

These pretty mauve tones reflect the colour of Scottish heather
Check wallpaper Mauve, £15 per roll, Next

8

Vibrant shades

Go for a classic tartan in rich green and gold
Tartan O'Leary LW72153, £74.88 per roll, Lewis & Wood

9

Diamond design

A stunning pattern to liven up any scheme
Argyle Charcoal, £17.99 per roll, Superfresco range, Wayfair

10

Gold investment

Use on a single wall to give a room wow factor
Biarritz, £97.20 per roll, Gaston y Daniella range, Fabrics & Papers

Sofa in Etta Mallow; cushions made in Geneva Vintage; Vence Onyx; all £30 per m, Villa Nova



FEATURE KAREN BRAY PHOTOGRAPHS RHAPSODY MEDIA

WHAT'S NEW AT Villa Nova

The latest collection of bold patterns creates a unique co-ordinating range

THE COMPANY Founded in 1993, Villa Nova is renowned for its range of contemporary and versatile fabrics and wallpapers. Part of The Romo Group, the brand's youthful, vibrant patterns are intermingled with plain and semi-plain designs, for collections that are modern, stylish and effortless to co-ordinate. Look out for playful prints, distinctive pops of colour and easy-to-live-with plains, alongside pretty sheers and statement wallcoverings.

THE NEW COLLECTION A modernist collection of prints and weaves, Etta features simple cut-out shapes, fluid

organic flourishes and assertive marks in bold solid blocks of colour. Art Deco-inspired shades, including the bright tones of Clementine, Verdigris and Begonia, are teamed with a more neutral palette of Cedar, Quince and Onyx. The abstract patterns of Etta and Issy are also available as wallcoverings, and will create a striking backdrop to showcase the range.

WHY WE LOVE IT With its mid-century-modern-inspired designs and fresh colour palette, the collection mixes and matches perfectly, helping you create a cohesive scheme.



Vence Verdigris (top);
Issy Onyx; both £30 per m, Villa Nova

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The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.



Go Further

COLOUR SCHOOL

Forest green & tobacco

Give a living room a grounded, classic look with this confident combination

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Deep forest green has the unusual quality of making a room feel *cosy and enveloping* in winter, but *cool and shady* in summer. Bring it to life with *woods and leathers* that have an orangey undertone for a pairing that's *direct from nature*. Add a shot or two of indigo blue and whether you create a room that's *rustic or glamorous* – or somewhere in between – this colour mix will exude quiet confidence



Paint walls a deep, natural green, then furnish with a mix of mid-toned wood and leather-covered pieces



IDEAL HOME ❤ MOODBOARD
Forest Green & Tobacco



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 86

See all the details & more ways with forest green over the page

More ways with forest green

Try it with...

COPPER

Go glam and team sumptuous fabrics and papers in forest green with high-shine copper highlights for a luxurious feel

Coppery contrast

Stick to warm tones
Plain cotton L 010, £86 per m, Fermoie



Honey pot

A sweet choice
Wholemeal Honey 1 Mixing Matt, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux

Sexy swirls
Roll out a bold pattern
Malachite 77/7024 wallpaper, £76 per roll, Fornasetti range, Cole & Son



Monochrome accessories will add a modern feel
Accessories, from a selection, H&M



Try it with... MONOCHROME

For a subtler effect, start with a matt, mottled wallpaper in green on the walls. Pick a mix of patterned black-and-white fabrics, then accessorise with clear glassware and linen for a clean, contemporary feel

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls

painted in Teal matt emulsion, £41 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. ULW1541 chestnut **flooring**, £27.99 per sq m, Laminate collection, Quick Step. Aztec Cinders SZ753 sisal **rug** with OL2 worn leather Tobacco border (2m x 3m), £968, Crucial Trading. Three seater **sofa**, £1,899; **dresser** with console, £1,575; both Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser. Fawn **coffee table**, £439, Barker & Stonehouse. Versailles **sideboard** (L160cm x W46cm x H76cm), £1,100, Halo. Ekenäset **armchair**, £150, Ikea; covered in Ashdown Ink V3154/01, £35 per m, Villa Nova. Metallic **nest of tables**, £279 for three, BHS. **ON SOFA Cushions** made in (from left): Denbury Squirrel V3155/02, £50 per m; Aspin Spearmint V3151/01 (front), £47 per m; both Villa

Nova; Dune Chocolate 7490/66 (back), £32.50 per m, Romo; Aspin Ink V3151/04, £47 per m, Villa Nova; Dune Malachite 7490/57 (front), £32.50 per m, Romo; Dune Chocolate 7490/66 (piping and back), as before. **ON/UNDER COFFEE TABLE** Grey geometric lustre **vase**, £10, BHS. Form **bowls**, from £70 for five, Tom Dixon range, John Lewis. Oblong leather **tray**, £95, Life of Riley. Cast iron bronze **teapot**, £59, Ceramica Blue. Luna **mugs**, £6 for four, George. Faux leather **suitcase**, £25, Sainsbury's. Peppercorn **throw**, £248, Eleanor Pritchard range, Heal's. **ON/IN DRESSER Wooden lanterns**, from £12 each, Tesco Direct. Leather **magazine files**, £75 each, Life of Riley. Nora **vases**, from £12.50 each, Parlance International. Weave **vase**, £18, George. Sapphire glass **tall**

vase, £48, MiaFleur. Maya **bud vase**, £40, Poole Pottery range, John Lewis. **Box files**, £95 each, Life of Riley. Recycled glass **vase**, from £35, Croft Collection range; grey felt **bucket**, £15, House by John Lewis range; both John Lewis. Basket weave **throw**, £20, BHS. **ON/ABOVE SIDEBOARD** (from left) Simple **lantern** in Antique Copper, £85, Out There Interiors. Nora **vase**, as before. Pression **vase**, £59, Ligne Roset range, Heal's. Olive wood salad **bowl**, £80, ICTC range, John Lewis. Geometric lustre **vase**, £15, BHS. **Picture frame**, £10, Sainsbury's. Old Town **clock**, £165, The Orchard Home and Gifts. **ON CHAIR Cushion** made in Dune Malachite 7490/57 (front); Ashdown Ink V3154/01 (back); both as before. **ON SIDE TABLE** Green and brass **desk lamp**, £390, MiaFleur

Smart carpet

Choose a chic check
SP304 Sisal Plaid in Rich Black, £100 per sq m, Crucial Trading



Softer shade

So sophisticated
Green Smoke Estate Emulsion, £42 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball





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Boutique HOTEL SPY

The Wild Rabbit

We took a sneak peek into this gorgeous hotel to bring you luxe style inspiration anyone can steal

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

LOCATION Set in the small, pretty village of Kingham in Oxfordshire, this traditional 18th-century inn is nestled in the heart of the Cotswolds.

ROOMS The award-winning Daylesford Organic farm team was tasked with reinventing this property, and its proprietor and Daylesford founder Lady Carole Bamford has spent more than £1 million on the refurbishment. It's an investment that has certainly paid off. The overall look combines pared-down style with stripped-back walls and handcrafted furniture. All 12 rooms are spacious yet cosy with quality mattresses, pure linen bed sheets and toiletries from

nearby Bamford Haybarn spa. The soft colour palette of greys, blues and taupes makes for a calming feel, while the chunky wooden furniture adds a rustic but chic look.

FAMOUS FOR Being dubbed the poshest pub in Britain. The hotel restaurant serves organic food from its own garden and also supports local suppliers. The hotel was named Pub of the Year 2015 in the *Michelin Eating out in Pubs* guide and placed in the top 10% of The AA's 2015 guide.

CELEBRITY GUESTS It's a favourite with *Britain's Got Talent* judge Amanda Holden and you may also bump into former MP Tessa Jowell.

YOU CAN BUY THE LOOK...



£735

Sitting pretty
Sink down into this
deep armchair
Peppy armchair, Loaf

Lovely linen

Add a touch of
zesty orange
Small square
cushion, Fermoie

£70



£95

Just my type

Be inspired by
this literary print
Typed Love
unframed print
(H50cm x W70cm),
One Must Dash

£55



Wood block

Can double
up as a stool
Driftwood side
table, French
Connection

£845

Pure style
Keep it simple
with this pale
ash table
Bedside table
Two, Another
Country

£175



Shine on
Use directional lighting
to create warmth
Anglepoise Original
1227 lamp, John Lewis



Create an
elegantly rustic
scheme with
exposed brick
walls, wooden
furniture and
a palette of soft,
earthy shades

FACT FILE

HOTEL

The Wild Rabbit

ADDRESS

Church Street,
Kingham,
Oxfordshire
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PRICE

From £150 per
night for a small
double room

CONTACT
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thewildrabbit.co.uk



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Raw Rustic

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever the budget



TIMELESS ELEGANCE

The neutral shade and clean, simple lines of this bed will never date
Piper bedstead in Gun Metal brushed cotton (H120cm x W135cm x D199cm), Loaf



SWEET DREAMS

A minimalist design in soft grey that delivers both style and comfort
Fredd grey upholstered bedstead (H90cm x W145cm x D210cm), Habitat



LOVE THE LOOK

Team linens in neutral tones and country-style motifs with accessories in wood, wicker and copper

For more moodboards turn to page 86

Design a dream BEDROOM

Give your child a room they'll adore with the beautiful kids' range at John Lewis

Because every child deserves their own mini haven, John Lewis's new interiors collection is full of ideas to create a gorgeous space for your little one to feel at home. From long-lasting furniture and stylish bedding to fun accessories and cuddly pyjamas, its timeless range of great-value products will leave you and your family feeling inspired.

From start to finish

Covering each aspect of children's interiors, John Lewis has everything you need to bring your child's

bedroom to life. Start with practical features, such as the easy-to-assemble furniture and stylish lighting, then get creative with an extensive selection of fabric and wallpaper, and finally complete the look with playful bedding, cool accessories and charming toys.

Make it your own

Whether your child wants to travel the world with adventure-adorned prints, take flight with fairy and butterfly schemes, or be bold with colourful Lego-inspired motifs, the vast choice means there's a theme for everyone.





'Team whimsical prints with cool accessories for a fun-filled scheme that's packed with personality'

MICHELA COLLING, ACTING STYLE EDITOR



Create bliss at bedtime

Build the perfect setting for a sound night's sleep

Every parent knows that true comfort is vital for a restful night, which is why John Lewis's bedroom range has been specially designed to ensure your little one sleeps soundly.

Get the basics right by selecting from its choice of supportive mattresses; try teaming the natural cotton option with a lightweight duvet and soft bedding for a night that's comfortable, cosy and kind to skin. Next, create a soothing atmosphere and keep disruptive light to a minimum with clever blackout blinds, then add warmth with a fun nightlight or glow-in-the-dark stars. Finally, choose toys, throws and cosy



pyjamas for a personal, homely feel, to help ensure that your child gets the best night's sleep. Plus, with the entire kids' range available in store and online, it has never been easier to create a dream bedroom for you and your little one to explore.



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REAL HOME IMPROVEMENT



'Glazing makes it feel like we are in California'

Moving from sunny California to a damp

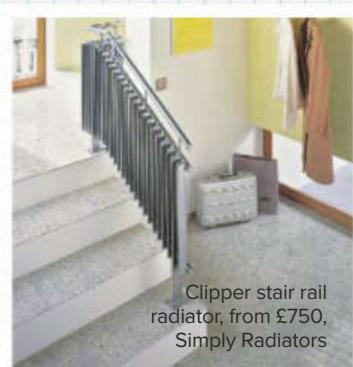
Fifties house in Eastbourne, East Sussex, proved a shock for Lisa and Jonathan Medard. But they were determined to turn their new house into a light-filled home with a bigger kitchen and an extra bedroom. They asked architectural and interior designer Martin Swatton for advice and, with his help, replaced the tiny extension above the garage with a first-floor main bedroom and en suite,

opening out onto a balcony. Downstairs, they extended at the rear to create an open-plan kitchen and dining space with glazed bifold doors on two sides. Skylights above the dining area let in more light, while taking out internal walls and installing underfloor heating cured the damp. 'We love all the glass,' says Lisa. 'It lets in lots of light and connects the house to the garden, giving us the type of home we enjoyed in California.'

FIND OUT MORE...

Trench heating was installed around the kitchen extension's perimeter, just inside the glazing.
Priced from £100 per m, this system combats down

draughts and prevents condensation on the glass.
Contact specialists for more information. Try heatprofile.co.uk or trenchheating.com.



Clipper stair rail radiator, from £750, Simply Radiators

SOURCEBOOK

Radiators

Need to know more? Try these top-five companies

HEATANDPLUMB.COM 020 3113 2122; heatandplumb.com
Offers more than 100 brands, including compact versions and EcoRad models with reduced water content to lower heating bills. Trade prices start at £17.17 for a basic compact radiator.

THE RADIATOR & BATHROOM GALLERY 0800 055 6450; theradiatorgallery.com
The Radiator & Bathroom Gallery imports designs from all over Europe. It has two London showrooms and offers free UK delivery. Designer models start at £103.

THE RADIATOR COMPANY 01342 302250; theradiatorcompany.co.uk
With more than 650 showrooms in the UK, The Radiator Company sells an impressive range, starting at £838 for a stainless-steel radiator. The website also features a useful heating output calculator.

RADSTORE 0114 231 7300; radstore.co.uk Radstore offers everything from basic radiators to modern flat vertical panels with no grooves that can be painted to create a feature. Prices start at £44 for a compact single-panel radiator (1,000mm x 300mm), with free delivery.

SIMPLY RADIATORS 020 8884 3369; simplyradiators.co.uk Provides all types of radiators, including feature models with real wow factor. Supplies to the trade and direct to the public. Prices start at £86, with delivery charges from £30.



Extend your
kitchen
work space
Table Plus,
£540, Magnet



Worktop Plus,
£926, Magnet

HOT NEWS

Space solutions

No matter how big your kitchen, there are always times when you need more space to work. With this in mind, Magnet has launched two clever new solutions.

Worktop Plus is a cabinet on wheels that you can roll out whenever it's needed. Complete with a mid-range cupboard and drawers, the unit costs £926.

At first glance, Table Plus looks like a stylish wall-storage unit, but a pull-down mechanism unfolds a tabletop without disturbing the shelves. It's ideal as a breakfast bar, homework spot or somewhere to use a laptop. Table Plus costs £540 and is available in black or white.

ON THE SURFACE

Designer splashback



Large ArTile Cotton Black,
£240, Ted Baker range,
British Ceramic Tile

Who can resist this gorgeous Ted Baker doggy glass tile from British Ceramic Tile? Guaranteed to cheer up any morning, it comes in two sizes. The 600mm x 750mm version is big enough to use as a decorative splashback, or as wall art in any room, £240. The 200mm x 250mm version costs £35.

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on pendant lamps



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A hand-made reproduction
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Icarus copper nautical pendant
lamp, Shoreditch Lighting



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from the Thirties
Copper industrial pendant lamp,
Notonthehighstreet.com

Project KNOW HOW

Want to install environmentally friendly solar panels, but worried about how they'll look? Solarcentury's Sunstation panels, from £4,200 for 14sq m, are so sleek that they sit flush with roof tiles instead of protruding above them



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The Fifties house had an awkward layout and a gloomy interior



EXTREME Transformations

From dark Fifties design...

Sheila and Jon Osborne have given their home a complete makeover, adding space and bringing in plenty of light

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached Fifties house in Hampshire.

WHO LIVES HERE

Sheila and Jon Osborne.

WHAT THEY DID

They created extra living space above the garage, changed the roof line, fitted a lead-roofed porch and added an orangery-style extension to the living

room at the rear. New timber windows were fitted throughout and the exterior brickwork was covered with acrylic render and weatherboarding.

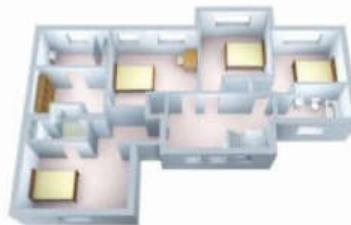
WHAT IT COST

Sheila and Jon paid £725,000 for the house in 2005 and have spent £440,000 remodelling the property, which is currently worth around £1.4 million.

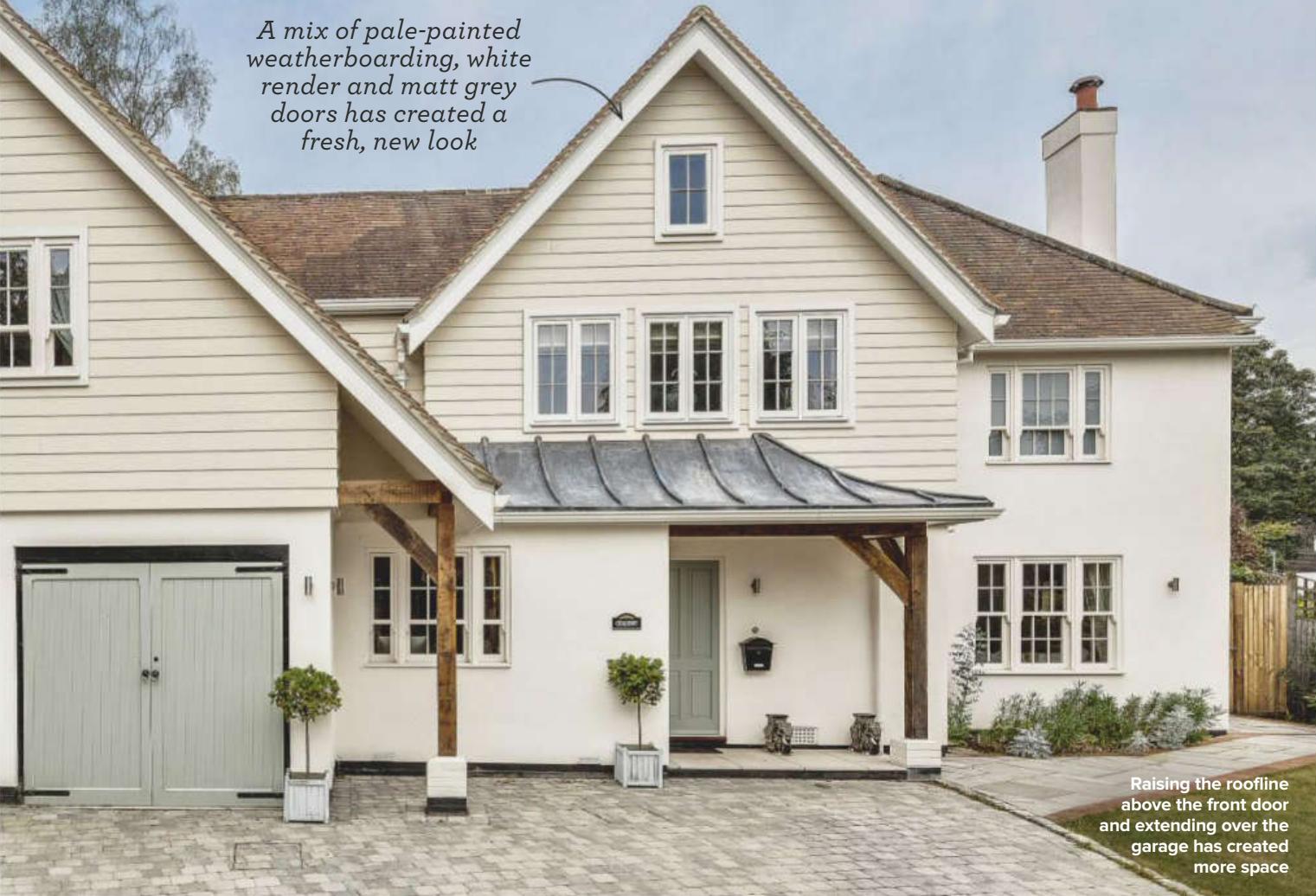


◀ GROUND FLOOR
The living room is to the right of the hall. To the left, there's a study, a loo and an open-plan kitchen, dining and living space that leads to a TV room

FIRST FLOOR ▶
Two of the four bedrooms have en suites. There's also a main bathroom and the main bedroom has a dressing room



A mix of pale-painted weatherboarding, white render and matt grey doors has created a fresh, new look



Raising the roofline above the front door and extending over the garage has created more space

to light New England style

When Sheila and Jon Osborne and their sons – Jack, now 27, and George, 25 – returned to the UK after living in Dubai, they were hunting for a family home in Hampshire with enough space for entertaining. ‘We chose this house because of the location,’ explains Sheila. ‘We liked the south-facing garden, but the layout inside didn’t flow well, despite the fact that it had already been extended to the rear.’

MAKING CHANGES Sheila and Jon successfully placed a sealed bid for the detached property in 2005, and lived there for several years before deciding to employ architect Paul Gallie of WSW Consultancy (01252 811011; wswconsultancy.co.uk) to carry out some improvements. ‘We explained to Paul that we never really used the separate dining and living rooms, and that the long, narrow kitchen at the centre of the house served as

a thoroughfare,’ explains Sheila. ‘We weren’t using the whole house and it felt like there was a great deal of wasted space.’

The family spent most of their time in the central open-plan kitchen area, but hoped to reorganise the internal layout so that the kitchen would face on to the garden. Paul’s solution was to convert the dining room into a TV room, with double doors connecting it to an open-plan kitchen, dining and family room. The existing living room would be enlarged with a single-storey orangery-style extension to the rear, incorporating glazed bifold doors on to the garden and a roof lantern to bring in plenty of light from above.

‘We also wanted to reorganise the layout upstairs and decided to extend out over the double garage to make larger bedrooms and two new en-suite bathrooms,’ says Jon. ‘A tiny boxroom has been taken out, and when you go upstairs now the new roof shape creates a vaulted ceiling, which gives a real sense of ➤



Jon and Sheila Osborne

We love...

...‘the new improved layout. We now use the whole house rather than just some of the rooms’



A single-storey extension has been added to the rear, and new windows and bifold doors installed

space. We don't have any more bedrooms than before, but all four are well proportioned.'

TRANSFORMING THE OUTSIDE Externally the property has also been given a major makeover and is now pretty unrecognisable. Rendering the brick walls and fixing maintenance-free composite weatherboarding at first-floor level, installing sash windows and constructing an oak-framed porch has created a pretty, traditional look. 'At first, we hadn't planned to cover all the external brickwork with acrylic render, but Paul recommended it and we're so pleased that we went ahead, as the render and weatherboarding give the house the New England look we like,' says Sheila. 'Details like the oak posts to the porch and the lead roof over the front door really help to add character and bring the whole design together.'

The house is within a conservation area, but planning permission was quickly granted for the dramatic changes. Building work was then undertaken by Charlie Brown of Moseley Green Bicknell Brown (01420 473162), and was completed in August 2013.

WORK IN PROGRESS During this time, it was impossible for Sheila and Jon to live in the house, so they decided to stay in their Spanish holiday home, returning regularly for progress reports and staying in touch with their architect and builder on Skype. 'We trusted our team and they sent us regular video updates of the build,' says Jon. 'Everything ran fairly smoothly, although there was a delay with the rendering because of the weather, but overall the project took only four months to complete.'

The roof was retained where possible and new sections were built in timber and clad in tiles, which were sourced to match the

originals. Foundations were dug for the timber living-room extension, which was constructed by a joinery company. A roof lantern was installed to keep the room light and bright. Bifold doors lead from the living room and kitchen on to a terrace, which is perfect for entertaining. 'It was a dark and dingy living room before, but now we spend every evening in there,' says Sheila. 'We're surrounded by glass and feel connected to the outdoors, which really lifts our mood.'

'Family and friends wondered why we were making such drastic changes to the house, but when they saw the end result they were completely amazed. We almost moved house at one point because the layout wasn't working, but now we're so glad we stayed.'

Pale-painted units, highly polished worktops and a vaulted ceiling maximise the daylight that floods in through bifold doors



Extending the living room has created a light and airy orangery-style seating space



'Family and friends wondered why we were making such drastic changes to the house, but when they saw the end result, they were completely amazed'



RENOVATION KNOW-HOW

Many alterations can be made under Permitted Development, meaning you don't need to get planning permission. For more information on planning and building regulations, visit planningportal.gov.uk and always check with your local authority before making any major changes.

Keep your neighbours informed at all stages and you might need to obtain party wall agreements, too. Check the advice given at planningportal.gov.uk.

For extensions and major remodelling, it's usually advisable to employ an architect to draw up accurate plans: the Royal Institute of British Architects (architecture.com) holds a directory of approved architects.

Get at least three quotes for all major purchases, including when you're hiring tradesmen and, whenever possible, negotiate fixed prices for each job rather than paying a daily rate.

It's not usually advisable to undertake major roofing work on a DIY basis. Go to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' website (nfrc.co.uk) to find a reputable roofer to do the work.

Remember to factor delays into the schedule and always have a contingency pot of money to pay for those unforeseen expenses.

IN DETAIL ROOF LANTERNS

Let light flood in, like the Osbornes did

Adding a roof lantern has totally transformed Sheila and Jon's living room, which was previously dark and uninviting. The work was carried out by Oakhanger Joinery (01420 478090; oakhangerjoinery.com).

Roof lanterns differ from roof lights as they project up from the roof, with glazed sides bringing in more light than a flat pane of glass. Lanterns can be bought off the shelf or made to order, and can take many forms. They are ideal for flat roofs and can have opening elements for ventilation.

- Consider material carefully – timber has a traditional look but will need to be treated every few years to keep it looking good, while UPVC and aluminium require less maintenance.
- Planning permission is not usually required for installing new roof lanterns, as long as they meet the criteria in the Planning Portal (planningportal.gov.uk).
- Building regulations will need to be met to ensure that the roof is strong enough to carry the weight of the lantern and that the structure is sufficiently insulated against heat loss.



A roof lantern has revitalised the living area

EXTREME Transformation 2

A new terrace, timber weatherboarding, wooden windows and French windows have transformed the dull exterior of this Sixties granite cottage

A simple wooden balcony stretches across the house and links the inside and out

BEFORE



AFTER



‘We linked our home to its waterside location’

Lizzie and Mark Fenwick transformed their dated cottage into a light-filled home on the river’s edge

The Aga in the kitchen was all that remained when Lizzie and Mark Fenwick renovated their Cornish cottage. Everything else was stripped out and the property was given an extensive makeover to create a comfortable home.

The Fenwicks first spotted the house when they were enjoying a weekend break in the coastal town of Fowey and happened to glance in an estate agent’s window. ‘We both agreed that it was spectacularly positioned, right beside the water, and exactly the type of home we’d love to own,’ explains Lizzie. ‘We discovered that the sale had just fallen through

that morning, and impulsively submitted an offer that was accepted the very next day.’

UP FOR A CHALLENGE The house’s décor and fixtures hadn’t been touched since the Sixties, and many of the rooms felt dark and made no connection to the river views. ‘We knew we were taking on a huge project, especially as we continued to live in our house in Dorset during the work,’ explains Lizzie. ‘We employed a project manager, who orchestrated a team of craftsmen to gut the interior and, as usual with old properties, they uncovered lots of problems.’

The rear of the house is built into the hillside and was extremely damp. The whole side of the

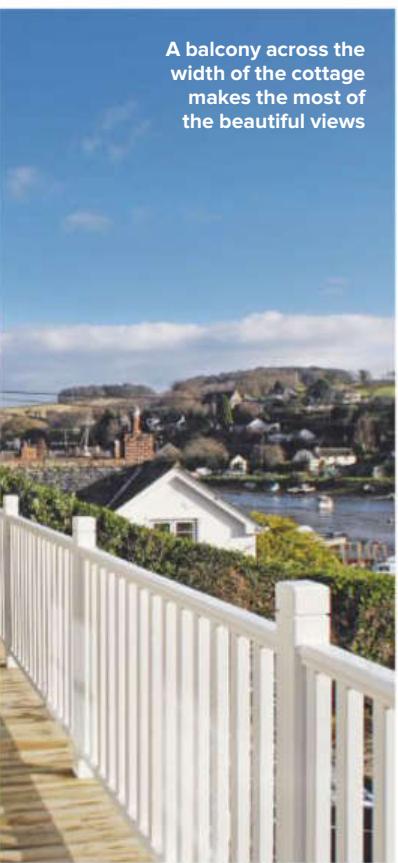


Oiled oak floorboards were laid in the living room and a wood-burning stove was installed in the new fireplace



FEATURE DEBBIE JEFFERY. PHOTOGRAPHS SIMON MAXWELL.
UNIQUE HOME STAYS (UNIQUEHOMESTAYS.COM). PLANS PERSONAL-ID

A balcony across the width of the cottage makes the most of the beautiful views



'We love the colonial look of the cladding, but living beside the water means we do get ravaged by the weather, so we needed to choose robust materials and products'

property had to be tanked and the slate roof repaired. New wiring and plumbing were installed throughout, walls were replastered and the kitchen and bathrooms modernised.

Previously the kitchen was small, and an internal wall was moved to enlarge this room by stealing space from the neighbouring living room, while upstairs the master en suite has been divided in two to create a new en suite.

CONNECTING WITH OUTSIDE Drawing additional light into the rooms was a key factor in the Fenwicks' plans, and they began by swapping the grimy secondary double glazing in the kitchen for hand-made wooden French windows – enlarging existing openings to make the most of the views. A joiner was also commissioned to create bespoke wooden frames for the rest of the house to replace the mishmash of UPVC and aluminium windows.

One of the biggest structural alterations involved extending the small balcony

overlooking the river across the full width of the cottage. The exterior of the building has been clad in painted timber weatherboarding, which transformed the previously austere stone cottage into a pretty white clapboard house. 'We love the colonial look of the cladding, but living beside the water means we do get ravaged by the weather, so we needed to choose materials and products robust enough to withstand a coastal environment,' says Mark.

Lizzie and Mark purchased the cottage for £465,000 in 2009 and have spent in excess of £250,000 renovating the property, which is currently worth around £950,000 and is barely recognisable from the original building. Now sun shines into the well-proportioned rooms and the décor is understated and relaxing. 'For us, there's nothing better than sitting out on the terrace in the evenings,' says Lizzie. 'We love listening to the tinkling of boat masts on the river and never tire of the view.'



Lizzie Fenwick

Trials & triumphs...

■ What was the high point?

'Hunting out bargains and seeing the cottage take shape.'

■ Any low points?

'Finding out that we needed planning permission for the new balcony and realising we might have to demolish the whole structure.'

■ Who was the project saviour?

'Project manager Jennie Elderkin was fantastic, and she employed a reliable and honest builder.'

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'We reinstated a basement kitchen'

Switch rooms around to gain a layout that works for you, just like the Urquharts did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

*Love their
STYLE?*

THE URQUHARTS' UNITS WERE
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FOR SIMILAR, TRY MAGNET'S
LEIGHTON GREY £ OR
THE SUFFOLK FROM
NEPTUNE ££



All change

Moving the kitchen-diner to the basement allowed the couple to create a perfect space for entertaining. A pale colour scheme keeps the room feeling bright



TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Sarah and Iain created their new kitchen

BEFORE

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, four-storey, Victorian town house in Blackheath, southeast London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Sarah and Iain Urquhart.

WHAT THEY DID

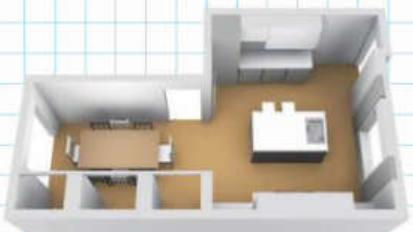
The couple moved the kitchen-diner back to the basement to free up space on the ground floor for a large living room.

THE LOOK

Elegant and pared back, with grey painted units, pale quartz worktops, farmhouse-style dining furniture and exposed brick walls.

LESSONS LEARNED

"We didn't anticipate how much building costs would be. In future, we will do our homework first."



THE LAYOUT A range has been built into what was the fireplace, with units either side and an integrated fridge-freezer, microwave and wine cooler on the wall opposite. An island unit sits in the middle of the kitchen and there's a dining area at the other end

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£17,000
Worktops.....	£4,800
Sink and tap.....	£1,225
Appliances.....	£6,930
Lighting.....	£520
TOTAL.....	£30,475



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Several months after moving into their London town house in 2012, Sarah and Iain Urquhart decided that the ground-floor kitchen and dining space would be far better in the basement. ‘Before, you walked straight through the front door into the kitchen, and the room’s high ceilings and huge windows felt wasted,’ says Sarah. ‘Originally, there would have been a formal living room upstairs, with the kitchen down below, but the living room had been put in the dark basement. Changing the layout back to the way the house used to be just felt like the right thing to do.’

At first, swapping the rooms seemed a daunting task, but keeping the original kitchen intact upstairs while the new one was installed made it relatively straightforward. Structurally, the only major jobs that needed to be done

were to strengthen the chimney breast to make way for a new range cooker, and to rebuild the ceiling that was bowing in the middle.

This, however, used up a large chunk of the couple’s budget. ‘It meant that we weren’t able to replace the oak floor, which, while in fairly good condition, had been laid badly with lots of gaps,’ Sarah explains. ‘The orange tone would have clashed with the pale-grey units. But the kitchen company kindly offered to limewash the floorboards free of charge if we covered the cost of taking them up and refitting them.’

The couple really enjoy entertaining and the new kitchen is the perfect space for socialising, with enough room for guests to mingle around the island. It’s given them an informal dining area, too, as well as access to the garden from the kitchen. ‘We’re so glad we did it – it was worth all the upheaval,’ says Sarah. ➔

▲ Relaxed dining

With French windows leading into the garden, the narrower end of the room makes the ideal spot for a dining table and chairs – the latter are painted in different tones of grey to avoid looking too ‘matched’



▲ Cool it
A wine cooler was a must for the sociable couple. An integrated microwave frees up space on the worktop

◀ Full range
‘It was well worth adapting the chimney to take the range cooker, as it has created the classic-yet-contemporary look we wanted,’ says Sarah



▲ Top drawer
Stylish features, such as oak cutlery dividers, highlight the bespoke detailing in the cabinetry



How we did it
“After searching online for a design firm, we went to an open day at Edmondson Interiors and liked it instantly, so hired the company. We had a steel joist put in to support the chimney breast above the range cooker and new plumbing fitted. We used one of the bedrooms as a living room during the installation, which took eight weeks, and the building work cost £10,000.”

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Bespoke units, £17,000; painted in French Grey; island painted in Lead Colour; both £53 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene; Silestone Lagoon quartz worktops with 10cm upstands and drainage grooves, £4,800; LAX 110 45 stainless steel sink, £225; Minerva Irena 3 in 1 boiling water tap, £1,000; both Franke range; Mercury stainless steel induction range cooker, £3,800; Gaggenau RW404 built under wine cabinet, £1,800; extractor, £300, Elica range; HF15M562B microwave, £300, Siemens range; all Edmondson Interiors. For a similar splashback, try the clear glass, from £210 per sq m, Splashback Shop. Flask pendant lights, £260 each, Tom Dixon range; Petrus bar stools, £349 each, Ligne Roset range; all Heal’s. Farmhouse dining table, from £430; farmhouse chairs, £110 each; all Kent and London.

For similar flooring, try the hardwood whitewashed oak matt planks, £58.99 per sq m, Castello collection, Quick Step. For similar paint, try the Absolute White matt emulsion, £20.99 for 2.5ltr, Light + Space range, Dulux. For a similar toaster, try the Dualit 2-slot Architect, £74.99, Lakeland

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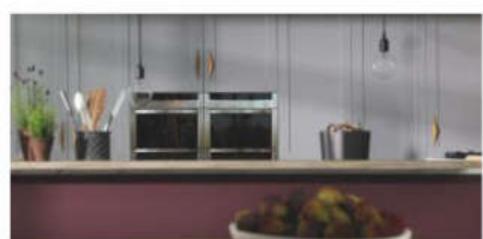
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Personal touch

Changing the unit doors, replacing wall units with shelves and repainting the walls has given Katie's kitchen a fresh look. 'Making the door fronts myself was quite simple with some help from a friend,' she says

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey long-sleeved top and blue jeans, standing in a rustic kitchen. She is leaning against a wooden kitchen counter. The kitchen features dark brown walls, light-colored wooden cabinets with metal handles, and open shelving above the stove holding various kitchenware. A window on the right looks out onto a garden.

'I upcycled the kitchen units myself'

Fancy a challenge? Be inspired by Katie Jay, who gave her kitchen a unique rustic look

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Love her
STYLE?

KATIE MADE THE UNIT FRONTS BY HAND £. FOR A SIMILAR KITCHEN, TRY THE ECO ELITE FROM MILESTONE DESIGN ££ OR THE BESPOKE FROM TRUNK RECLAIMED £££

BEFORE



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, Victorian, semi-detached house in Woodford, northeast London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Katie Jay and her daughters, Beth, 22, and Evie, 19.

WHAT SHE DID

Katie kept the kitchen carcases, but replaced their doors, swapped the wall units for shelves, repainted the walls, changed the lighting and bought a new fridge-freezer.

THE LOOK

Modern, rustic and utilitarian, but with touches of faded grandeur.

LESSONS LEARNED

“The biggest lesson is that it has been possible for me to make my own unit doors. It took planning and careful measuring of the wood, then simply a basic knowledge of how to distress it.”

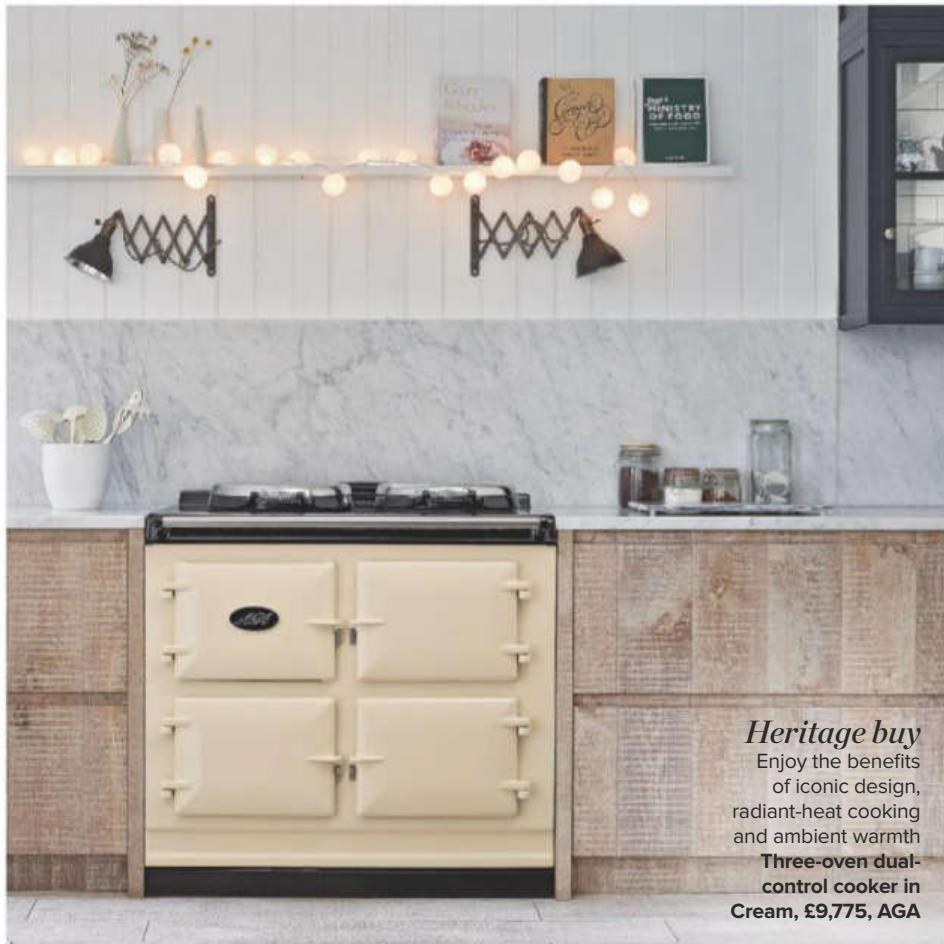
WHAT IT COST

Unit doors.....	£275
Shelves and brackets....	£134
Fridge-freezer.....	£429
Lighting.....	£85
Paint and varnish.....	£65
Dining chairs.....	£57
TOTAL.....	£1,045

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Katie created her new kitchen



THE LAYOUT As you enter the room, the run of units is to the left and a Fifties drinks cabinet is on the right, with the sink and fridge-freezer under the window opposite. The dining table sits in the middle of the space

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Available as an all electric model or with gas ovens and electric hotplates

Three-oven dual-control cooker in Duck Egg Blue, from £9,775, AGA

***Big it up***

If you have lots of mouths to feed, this impressive model is the one for you

Five-oven AGA cooker in Cream, from £11,775, AGA

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Keep warm and cosy THIS WINTER

Get the right range cooker to suit your home and lifestyle with the latest models from AGA

Some people may think that AGA range cookers are just meant for big, traditional country houses, but with the launch of the company's new series of models, this is certainly not the case. Thanks to the marriage of design heritage and cutting-edge technology, there's now an AGA cooker for everyone.

Keep costs down

For those who want lower running costs, the AGA Total Control is the perfect choice. Its state-of-the-art touch-screen panel enables you to switch each of the ovens and hotplates on and off as you need them, meaning no energy is wasted and running costs are from just £5 per week. For the ultimate in control, opt for the AGA iTotal Control model, which can be remotely

operated via your smartphone. If you prefer a cosy kitchen, the AGA Dual Control has ovens that are on all the time but, unlike traditional AGA cookers, you can turn the hotplates on and off independently of the ovens, reducing the amount of energy used.

Keep it compact

If you think that your kitchen is far too small for an AGA, the 60cm-wide City60 is for you. It has two ovens – the top one can be switched between baking and roasting modes, while the bottom is for simmering – and a single hotplate for boiling and simmering. Room vented so it can be sited anywhere, the City60 model is mounted on wheels, so it's also easy to take with you if you move, making it a brilliant investment buy.

When Katie Jay planned her kitchen the first time round, she gave plenty of thought to its contemporary looks. However, 10 years on, it had become dated. 'I'd been itching to change it for a while,' she says. 'Then I saw a photo in a magazine of a ramshackle kitchen in a log cabin, which had cabinet doors made from old timber and open, planked shelves crammed with crockery. The seed had been sown and it became a firm plan after we visited some cosy, dark-walled restaurants in Bruges, Belgium.'

Redoing the kitchen didn't mean starting from scratch. The units were in good condition and the existing chrome oven, hob, sink and taps suited the new look, as did the slate floor tiles. However, Katie soon realised that, to get the distressed timber fronts she wanted for the units, she would have to make them herself.

'I wanted the kitchen to look as freestanding as possible, so I clad the units in mismatching timber,' she explains. 'Getting rid of the wall units and introducing shelves added another element. Lastly, the dining area got an update with a traditional chandelier and new chairs.'

And the finished look? 'The kitchen makes a statement and I've got the look I wanted, as well as the feeling I was hoping for,' says Katie. 'With the dark-chocolate walls and soft lighting, it's fabulously cosy – and lovingly rough around the edges.' ➤



▲ Old and new

The oven, hob, worktop and splashback were all reused. 'I wanted to keep as much as possible from the old kitchen,' explains Katie. The tall cupboard by the door was created by cladding two tall basic kitchen units in distressed plywood



◀ A grand affair

With its chandelier, white tablecloth and colonial chairs, the dining area provides an air of faded grandeur. 'My idea was to mix rustic utilitarian with elegance, so when I found this chandelier abandoned in a skip, I realised I'd found the centrepiece,' says Katie



Shelf life
The shelves are made from scaffold boards found at a recycling project. Katie varnished the tops and fitted cast-iron brackets



▲ Kitchen keepsakes

'I like to be reminded of the items that mean a lot to me, so being able to have them sitting around on the shelves out on display in the kitchen is really special,' explains Katie

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Units made from spruce plywood (2,440mm x 1,220mm x 12mm), £25 each; MDF boards (2,440mm x 1,220mm x 9mm), £15 each; yacht varnish, £32 for 2.5ltr, Ronseal range; for a similar **worktop**, try the 03886014, £518 for a 3m length; for a similar **splashback**, try the stainless steel (70cm x 75cm), £68; all B&Q. D Sash pull **handles**, from £3.59 each; cup pull **handles**, £4.89 each; both Ironmongery World.

Shelves made from scaffold boards, from a selection, Leaside Wood Recycling Project. Shelf **brackets**, from £8 each, Yester Home. RB31FDJNDBC **fridge-freezer**, £429, Samsung range; for a similar **oven** and **hob**, try the OSF2113SX, £250; all Currys. For a similar **paint**, try the Intense Chestnut matt emulsion, from £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. For similar **flooring**, try the 12103 tiles, £19.45 per sq m, Walls and Floors. For a similar **chandelier**, try the Chella five light, £150, Laura Ashley. For similar **chairs**, try the Fayence, £279 each, Woodpecker Interiors

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OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



How I did it

“A friend of mine who has a workshop cut and routed the MDF sheets and plywood widths so I could create the units. I stained and distressed the plywood widths outside, then cut them to fit the MDF fronts, pinning and gluing them on. I removed the wall units, then my daughter’s boyfriend, Danny, an electrician, prepared the wall for under-shelf lighting, changed the fronts of the electrical points and hung the chandelier. Painting the walls was a delight as it changed the look immediately. The work took just three weeks to complete.”

▲ Clever thinking
Plywood boards were pinned and glued to MDF to make the doors

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THE EMERSONS' UNITS ARE FROM 1909 KITCHENS £££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY THE CARISBROOKE IVORY FRAMED FROM B&Q £ OR LINDA BARKER'S SHAKER IN BALTIC FROM WREN KITCHENS ££

'We created a sociable space'

Put your kitchen in the centre of the action by adding a living area, like the Emersons did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Family room
Extending into the garden and side return created room for a large kitchen-diner with a living area. 'Gone are the days when I was stuck in the kitchen on my own,' says Deana

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£11,492
Worktops.....	£3,250
Sink.....	£343
Taps.....	£746
Tiles.....	£30
Flooring.....	£2,395
Appliances.....	£3,580
Lighting.....	£830
Paint.....	£25
TOTAL.....	£22,691

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Deana and Michael created their new kitchen



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom house, near Chesterfield in Derbyshire, built in the Nineties.

WHO LIVES HERE

Deana and Michael Emerson, with their daughters, Naimh, 15, and Caitlin, 13, and their spaniel, Jerry.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple knocked down a brick summerhouse to create space for an extension, and added a glazed roof to maximise light.

THE LOOK

Modern farmhouse, with pale and dark-grey painted wooden units and industrial-style elements.

LESSONS LEARNED

"Accept that you will go over budget. It's the extras that create added expense, but it's not worth skimping on radiators, lights and taps, as they'll make the kitchen."



THE LAYOUT The base units have been arranged in a U-shape around the central island that doubles as a breakfast bar. An alcove was created to make a feature of the range cooker and the other two walls contain a mix of tall, base and wall units

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► White heat

The striking white range cooker matches the sleek granite worktops, but also offers a subtle contrast with the chalk grey painted units on either side. 'I chanced upon the green oak lintel at a wood yard online,' says Michael. 'We had it put above the range cooker to create a traditional feature alcove'

▼ All seasons

One side of the island is used as a breakfast bar, so Deana can chat to the family while cooking. In the winter, the wood-burning stove keeps the large space warm. 'It gives an extra-cosy feel to the room,' says Deana

Deana and Michael Emerson have been transforming their home in Derbyshire since they bought it 11 years ago when their two girls were young, but had put off the kitchen renovation until recently. 'Our old kitchen wasn't somewhere we'd all hang out together,' says Deana. 'So when it came to making our new kitchen work for us, we knew we would have to extend out into the side return and garden to create a space with an adjoining open-plan living area.'

Although the house is just 20 years old, it was built using reclaimed stone from an old Sheffield mill. To ensure that the kitchen felt in keeping with the rest of the house, the couple opted for traditional-style units. They also reused the stone and windows from the original kitchen walls, so the new extension would feel like it has always been part of the property.

Having waited so long, the couple resolved not to sacrifice anything on their wish list. To keep costs down, they did some of the work themselves. Together, they ripped out the old kitchen, Michael project-managed the build and did the electrics, and Deana did the tiling.

'The new kitchen is the heart of our home,' says Deana. 'We can be cooking while the girls are watching TV at the end of the room, or friends are having a drink at the breakfast bar. It has transformed how we use our home. There isn't a thing that we'd change about it.' ➔





Storage space
Bespoke units make the most of every inch of space, while cup handles add an industrial touch



Laid-back approach
A living area has been created at the end of the kitchen – Jerry the spaniel rarely moves from this cosy spot

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Half Pencil and Scalloped units, from £350 for a W600mm base unit; painted in Partridge Grey, Charcoal and Chalk; 1909 Kitchens range; Farmhouse ceramic double sink, £343; Callisto tap, £347, Perrin & Rowe range; HC3300 hot-water tap, £399, In Sink Erator range; solid white granite worktops, £3,250; all Kitchen Solutions. Elise 110 dual fuel range cooker, from £2,199, Rangemaster range, John Lewis. Walls painted in Timeless Classics Porcelain Doll matt emulsion, £25.42 for 2.5ltr, Dulux range, B&Q. For similar tiles, try the Forecase in Fair Isle, £89.76 per sq m, Fired Earth. For similar flooring, try the KP39 Knight tile, £17.50 per sq m, Karndean Designflooring range, Flooring UK. Hooked 3.0 ceiling light in Nude, £420; Hooked wall lights in Nude, £205 each; all Buster+Punch. Diego bar stools, £215 each, Barker & Stonehouse. Solution 400 wood-burning stove with chrome fittings, from £1,668, Clearview range, Robeys. For a similar cast iron radiator, try the Art Nouveau 750, from £180, Arroll range, Victorian Bathrooms 4 U

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How we did it

Open secret
The larder unit contains organised storage for jars, bottles and plates

We started by knocking down a summerhouse to create space for the kitchen extension, which went into the side return and out into the rear garden. Architectural firm Peter Law Design created the drawings and Home Style Building took on the construction. We didn't need planning consent, as we built within permitted-development rules but, to be sure, we took the plans to the council to get a letter stating that before we started. The work took five months from start to finish, and the kitchen installation cost £1,560.

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A
BEAUTIFUL
USE
OF
SPACE

'It suits our Victorian home'

Want a period bathroom? Use antique-style fittings, like the Philipsons did, for a classic look

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

*Love their
STYLE?*

THE PHILIPSONS' DOUBLE-ENDED BATH IS FROM THE CAST IRON BATH COMPANY ££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY UKBATHROOMS' CLEARWATER TRADITIONAL £ OR ASTON MATTHEWS' ASTONIAN LUXOR £££

Traditional piece
Painted in a muted sage shade, the classic roll-top bath is the focal point of the room

WHAT IT COST

Bath.....	£915
Shower.....	£587
Basin.....	£70
Taps.....	£255
Tiles.....	£297
Radiator.....	£300
Sewing-machine stand.....	£50
TOTAL.....	£2,474

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Hannah and Pete created their new bathroom



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, Victorian, house in Newcastle.

WHO LIVES HERE

Hannah and Pete Philipson.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple knocked together a bedroom, bathroom and a separate loo to create a large bathroom with a laundry room next door.

THE LOOK

Traditional, with a roll-top bath, antique-style brass fittings and vintage mirrors.

LESSONS LEARNED

"Stay focused on your vision, even when you get frustrated and can't find what you want. With a bit of creative thinking you can always adapt things, like I did by giving the fittings an antique effect."



THE LAYOUT To the left of the door is the basin, which is next to the loo. The freestanding bath is in the middle of the room. There's a shower enclosure in the corner next to the fireplace



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Proven Skin Kindness



When Hannah and Pete Philipson bought their terraced home, they were happy to sacrifice one of their four bedrooms for a bigger bathroom. ‘The fourth bedroom seemed a long way from the other upstairs rooms at the end of a corridor,’ says Hannah. ‘There was a tiny dated bathroom with a bath and basin, and a separate loo next door.’ The couple decided they’d knock the rooms together, stealing space from the old bathroom for a laundry room, too.

When it came to the design, Hannah’s eye for detail and creative flair were invaluable. ‘We wanted a timeless feel, as it had to suit the age of our house,’ she says. ‘I spent a lot

of time researching Victorian bathrooms, getting inspiration from magazines and using Pinterest to narrow down the look.’

As she’d always wanted a freestanding bath, Hannah splashed out on a beautiful cast-iron design. To add to the character feel, she sought out period-style fittings, covered an old chair in grain sacking and hung up vintage mirrors. ‘The hardest part was finding antique brass fittings,’ she says. ‘I hunted down the taps and shower I wanted, but couldn’t find a budget loo or basin without a chrome flush or plug hole, so the builders sanded them down, sprayed them gold and aged them with grate polish. The best bargain was the £50 vintage Singer sewing-machine stand. It was damaged, but we restored it and now it’s a fantastic vanity unit.’ ➤

▲ Perfect fit
Hannah and Pete restored the original fireplace in the former bedroom and found a shower enclosure to fit into the alcove



Unique unit
‘I saw the idea for using a sewing-machine stand on Pinterest and asked the builders to tile the top and fit the basin, while I found new drawer knobs,’ explains Hannah



▲ *Antique find*

The bath is teamed with unusual floorstanding brass bath taps



▲ *Treasured finds*

Hannah has a passion for old glass apothecary-style bottles and seeks them out at charity shops and fairs

How we did it
“We hired an electrician to rewire our house and found a building firm called Inside Transformations to carry out the work. For around £1,700, the builders ripped out the old fittings, knocked down the walls and built a partition wall in the landing for the new doorway. After damp-proofing the room, they sanded the floorboards and installed the bathroom. We painted the walls and restored the fireplace and the sewing-machine stand. The project took six weeks.”

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Millbrook double ended cast iron **bath**, from £915, The Cast Iron Bath Company; painted in Ball Green Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Nouvelle countertop **basin**, £69.95, Victorian Plumbing. Hydrolux walk in **shower enclosure** with **tray**, from £435, Plumbworld. Classic exposed mixer **shower system** in antique brass, £152; Chester floorstanding **bath-filler mixer tap**, £189; Chester wall mounted antique brass **basin mixer tap**, £65.36; all Homary.com. Halo bevelled Sage **tiles** (20cm x 10cm), £19.80 per sq m, Westerhope Tile Centre. **Walls** painted in Cornforth White Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For a similar **radiator**, try the traditional four column, from £82.80, The Cast Iron Radiator Centre. For similar **mirrors**, try the vintage style bevelled, try three, Cox & Cox. For a similar hessian **chair**, try the Louis roundback, £275, Derry's range, WorldStores. For a similar **fire surround**, try the Pembroke black cast iron, from £465, Cast Fireplaces. For a similar **vanity table**, try a selection, Etsy. Botanical **print**, £3; glycerine and rose water **bottle**, £12.50; both RE. For similar **towels**, try the grey Saint Tropez hammam, £22 each, Hammam-towels.co.uk

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'It's like a luxury hotel'

Susanna and Andreas Norum Lanz extended upwards to create a fabulous en suite

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



*Love their
STYLE?*

SUSANNA AND ANDREAS'S
FREESTANDING CLEO BATH
IS FROM LIVINGHOUSE ££.
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BATHROOMS UK'S DUO
OVAL ££ OR VICTORIA +
ALBERT'S NAPOLI
£££

**Main attraction**

The focus of this spa-style scheme is a contemporary freestanding bath, which is perfect for luxurious soaks

BEFORE

With one baby already and another on the way, Susanna and Andreas Norum Lanz realised that their top-floor flat was bursting at the seams. 'We didn't want to move because we were happy here, so we decided to build upwards to create a new bedroom with an en suite,' says Susanna. 'The neighbouring houses on both sides already had roof extensions, so we knew there was an opportunity for us to do the same. We wanted to create somewhere with the look and feel of a luxurious hotel.'

A freestanding bath is the focal point of the new room and can be glimpsed from the bedroom. 'It's nice to have a conversation with Andreas while I'm in the bath, rather than being locked away in another room,' says Susanna.

The couple used the same wood flooring throughout the bedroom and en suite to link the two zones. 'We also went for Bisazza mosaic tiles, as I love the way they catch the light,' says Susanna. 'It's a very inviting space.'

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW

Susanna and Andreas created their new bathroom

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR**WHAT IT COST**

Bath and mixer.....	£2,523
Shower.....	£954
Basins.....	£696
Basin taps.....	£510
Mosaics.....	£900
Tiles.....	£650
Flooring.....	£600
Vanity unit.....	£3,567
Mirror cabinet.....	£775
TOTAL.....	£11,175

THE PROPERTY

A two-bedroom apartment in a Victorian house in west London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Susanna and Andreas Norum Lanz, with their children, Alexander, two, and Ella, one.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple extended upwards to create a new

main bedroom with an en-suite bathroom.

THE LOOK

Contemporary-hotel chic with a luxurious feel.

LESSONS LEARNED

'Take time to organise your project well. While waiting for planning permission, we thought about all the details, so it came together easily.'



THE LAYOUT The freestanding bath is to the right of the door. On the left is a vanity unit with twin basins. The loo and shower are tucked around the corner



Space solutions
A wall-hung vanity unit appears to float in the room, accentuating the sense of space. A door at the end of the room leads to the shower



Glamorous touch
Pretty shades of black, copper, purple and grey all shimmer in the iridescent mosaic tiles



Minimalist style
Drawers store toiletries, so the countertop can be kept free of clutter

How we did it
“We wanted to maximise daylight and increase the ceiling height to enhance the feeling of space, and hired Martins Camisuli Architects & Designers to help us achieve this. The layout focuses on the bath and the vanity unit, with the loo tucked around the corner, as I didn't want it to be the first thing you see. The project took a year to finish and the bathroom installation and plumbing cost around £10,000.”

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Cleo **bath**, from £1,608; Kloodo **basins**, from £348 each; all Livinghouse. Bespoke Monolite Ciclamino **vanity unit**, from £3,500, Artelinea range, CP Hart. DE416FC **bath-shower mixer**, £765, Design range; basin two hole **tap sets**, £255 each, Kai Lever range; all Crosswater. For a similar **shower** and **mixer**, try the Raindance Air Overhead 240mm with valve, £960; for a similar **hand shower**, try the Starck baton 1jet, £99, Axor range; all Hansgrohe. For a similar **shower screen**, try the Collage panel, from £262, Roman. Wangaline 1200mm illuminated **mirror cabinet**, £775, Schneider range, The Original Bathroom Company. For similar **paint**, try the Porcelain Doll Bathroom+, £27.98 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. For similar **flooring**, try the PAL1338, £50 per sq m, Quick Step. Ouse **towel rails**, from £228 each, JIS Europe. Glass **mosaics**, £274 per sq m, Bisazza. For similar floor **tiles**, try the Oscano Graphite, £17.47 per sq m, B&Q. For a similar **art print**, try The Dismount, from £34.95, King & McGaw

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Simple Solutions

THROW A BONFIRE PARTY

Get friends and neighbours together for an easy-going evening of fireworks and food

If safety issues have put you off the idea of a fireworks party in the past, these are the basics you need to know for a stress- and problem-free do.

1 BE BONFIRE-SAVVY

Build your bonfire a safe distance (at least 18m) from houses, trees, hedges, fences and sheds. Don't use petrol or paraffin to light it – domestic firelighters are a safer option – and check for hibernating hedgehogs first. While a bonfire is a good opportunity to burn scrap wood or garden waste, never burn tins of paint, tyres, batteries, foam-filled furniture, aerosols or used fireworks.

2 BUY THE RIGHT FIREWORKS

Make sure you buy fireworks that are intended for garden use (Category 2) and look for the British Standard number BS7114. 'Garden' fireworks still require a spectator distance of at least 5-8m, so if your plot is smaller than that, go to a public display instead.

3 PREPARE PROPERLY

Store the fireworks in a metal box with a lid before and during your display, and never keep fireworks in your pocket. Read the instructions for

FIREWORK	EFFECT	NOISE LEVEL
ROCKET	Shoots straight up with a 'whoosh', bursts into colourful bouquets, finishes with a bang or crackle	High
ROMAN CANDLE	A shell sitting inside a card tube fires shots of colourful starbursts into the sky with a 'thud' sound	Medium
BARRAGE	Consists of several tubes stuck together for multiple (16-49) shots of starbursts in one, crackling hit	Medium
FOUNTAIN	Perfect for a low-level display, spurts colourful sparks into the air from the ground	Low
CATHERINE WHEEL	Nailed to a post or fence, spins while throwing out a ring of colourful sparks	Low

the fireworks before your event, and then again before lighting each one – have a torch to hand if necessary.

4 HAVE A DESIGNATED FIREWORK LIGHTER

Make one person responsible for the lighting of all fireworks, to keep the display controlled. Make sure they don't drink too much! They should light fireworks one at a time, using a taper held at arm's length. Never return to a lit firework, or throw them.

5 PRACTISE SAFE SPARKLING

Adults should tell children to hold sparklers at arm's length and not run with them or wave them near anyone. They should then light them, before handing them to the children (over-fives only). Get anyone who wants to

have a sparkler to wear gloves, and supply a bucket of water or sand for putting sparklers in, hot end down, when they're spent. Avoid dressing yourself or your children in flowing clothes, which could catch light.

6 KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

Read up on basic first aid for cooling and protecting a burn (visit sjaj.org.uk), and have emergency numbers to hand, just in case.

7 AND FINALLY...

Everyone knows this, but it's easy to forget in all the excitement: make sure you keep pets safe indoors with all the doors and windows shut, and curtains or blinds drawn to muffle the noise of fireworks.

HOW TO BUILD THE PERFECT BONFIRE



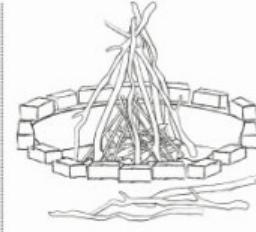
Dig a shallow pit and surround it with bricks or large stones (this will stop the fire from spreading)



Arrange tinder (dry leaves, grass, bark, and twigs) into a bundle, then place it in the centre of the pit



Build a tepee above it using kindling sticks of increasing size. Leave an opening for the wind to fan the flames



Create a larger tepee around the kindling using fuel wood (branches the width of your forearm)



Light the tinder and fan if necessary. As the tepee burns, feed the fire with more fuel wood

Tip ‘Waterproof your fireworks even if rain isn’t forecast – cover each firework either with plastic bags or clingfilm’

Pete Irving, Firework-review.org.uk



3 OF THE BEST INDOOR FIREWORKS



SPARKLING TALK
Simply Silver mini sparklers in a box, £4.80, Talking Tables



FLAMING FANTASTIC
Colourful flame mini ice fountain decorations, £5.40 for eight, Pipii



SEVENTIES PARTY
Retro fireworks, £13, Hunter Gatherer range, Notonthehighstreet.com

To make your bonfire easier to light, collect kindling and wood beforehand so it has time to dry out

PREPARE THE GARDEN FOR WINTER

Put your garden to bed with some tender loving care and it'll bounce back in spring, whatever the weather throws at it

NURTURE THE LAWN

- ★ **Treat it** as soon as possible with a special lawn feed to help the grass recover after a summer of wear and tear. Some lawn fertilisers will both strengthen the roots and kill moss for a healthier lawn come spring.
- ★ **Give it one last mow** before winter. Grass continues to grow as long as the temperature is above 5°C so raise the cut to winter height, around 25% higher than in the summer months, and mow before frosts arrive.
- ★ **Rake up fallen leaves** throughout autumn – fallen leaves and debris can trap moisture, encourage disease and turn your lawn yellow.
- ★ **Keep off the grass** if it's frosty or wet to prevent damage.

PROTECT PLANTS

- ★ **Cut back perennials** once the foliage has died back and mulch around the remaining 'crown' with straw, bark chips or fallen leaves.
- ★ **Dig up and store** tender perennials, such as dahlias and gladioli, that won't survive hard freezes. When digging, be careful not to damage the plant's tuber or corm.



Fruit tree leaves make great compost

★ **Wrap plants in pots** in fleece, bubble wrap or coconut matting – their roots are more exposed to cold than if they were planted in the ground. Wrap the pot itself, and the plant as well if it's an exotic or half-hardy, and group pots together in a sheltered spot near the house for protection.

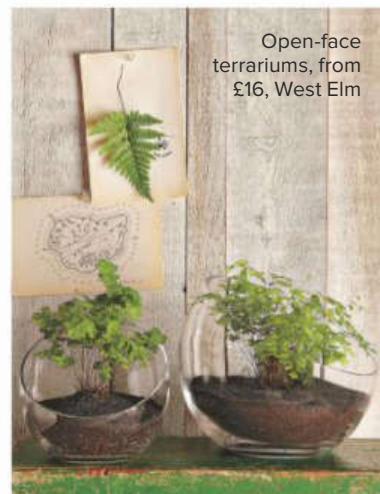
★ **Move tender potted plants** to a greenhouse or bring them indoors before the first frosts. Most will make the transition from outdoor plant to house plant and back again.

TIDY TOOLS AND FURNITURE

- ★ **Cover garden furniture** or move it under cover. Take outdoor cushions indoors – they can develop mildew if stored in a shed or garage.
- ★ **Treat hardwood tables** and chairs with a protective oil, such as Ronseal Garden Furniture Protector, £13.64 for 750ml, B&Q.
- ★ **Brush and wash** plastic, resin and metal furniture, and protect it with a waterproof cover over winter.
- ★ **Clean and oil** the metal parts of tools to prevent rusting before putting them away in a shed. Hang large tools on a rack to save space.

PREPARE FOR THE WEATHER

- ★ **Check your shed** and replace torn roof felt. Lock the windows and door.
- ★ **Stock up on salt or grit** to scatter onto icy paths and paving.
- ★ **Use an oil-based stain** on wooden fences and structures to keep the wood supple and allow it to 'breathe', so that rain can evaporate without causing shrinkage or swelling.
- ★ **Check exterior walls** of your house for cracks and get them fixed as soon as possible. If water gets in and freezes, it'll widen the crack.
- ★ **Unblock airbricks** to allow air to flow freely beneath your property – poor ventilation can lead to damp timbers, which are susceptible to rot.



Open-face terrariums, from £16, West Elm

CREATE AN INDOOR GARDEN

A terrarium will give you greenery all year round

1 PICK A POT Choose an open terrarium for drought-loving plants, or a closed one for moisture-loving varieties.

2 MAKE A BASE Line it with gravel and aquatic charcoal, then a layer of potting compost.

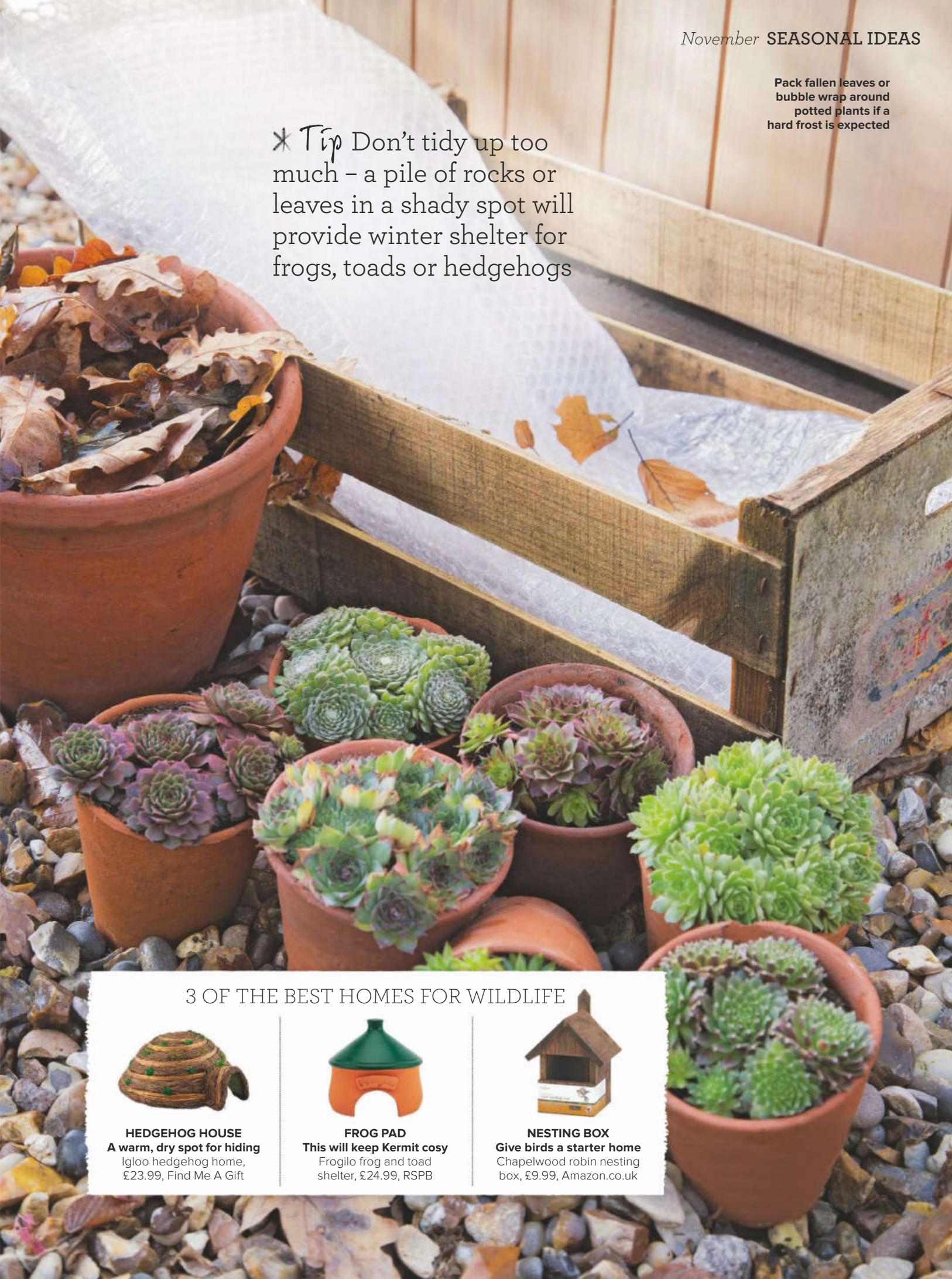
3 ARRANGE PLANTS Embed two or three slow-growing plants in the compost, not letting the leaves touch the sides of the terrarium. Fill gaps with bark chips, lichen, moss and stones.

4 WATER SPARINGLY Mist the leaves and glass to clean off any soil. Do not seal the container until the moisture has evaporated. Make sure an open terrarium doesn't totally dry out.

5 TAKE CARE OF IT Place your terrarium in good light but not in direct sunlight. If it's closed, air the plants every two or three weeks.

Pack fallen leaves or bubble wrap around potted plants if a hard frost is expected

* **Tip** Don't tidy up too much – a pile of rocks or leaves in a shady spot will provide winter shelter for frogs, toads or hedgehogs



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Frogilo frog and toad shelter, £24.99, RSPB



NESTING BOX
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Chapelwood robin nesting box, £9.99, Amazon.co.uk



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LEARN MINDFULNESS

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FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Q WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

Although mindfulness is the latest buzzword, it's actually been around for thousands of years. Based on ancient Buddhist meditation practices and breathing exercises, it is an awareness of what is taking place in the present moment. The rise in the popularity of mindfulness can be put down to the growing body of evidence pointing to its health benefits – in the last 10 years, it has been prescribed to thousands of NHS patients to help beat anxiety, depression and stress.

Q WHY SHOULD I DO IT?

If you find yourself racing from task to task and feeling frazzled, then mindfulness could be the answer. The basic practices are easy to carry out and can take less than 10 minutes. As well as helping reduce stress levels, it offers the opportunity to get to know yourself better, so you're less likely to focus on the negatives and will get better at dealing with your emotions.

Q HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The Headspace app offers a great introduction to mindfulness with Take10 – a programme of 10-minute practices to be carried out every day for 10 days while you're trying to form

the habit of incorporating mindfulness into your day. No equipment is needed – simply start by sitting in a quiet, comfortable place where you won't be disturbed. It could be helpful to pick a certain time of day that you always practise, as this type of continuity can help with habit-forming.

Q WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Breathing exercises are at the heart of mindfulness. Simply close your eyes, then take deep breaths from your belly and focus on the inhalation and exhalation, noticing the rise and fall of your chest. Breathe in slowly for a count of 10, then out for the same length of time. Repeat this at least three times. It doesn't matter if your mind wanders – some days you'll be more distracted than others – just let the thoughts drift through your mind, then bring your attention back to your breathing. Aim to do this for 10 minutes every morning when you wake up, then for a minute every hour or so if you can during the day.

Q CAN I TAKE IT FURTHER?

If you've got 10 minutes or longer to spare, try what's called body-scan meditation to become more aware of your thoughts and sensations. It's best

USEFUL RESOURCES

Try an online course, download an app or read a book to learn more about the practice of mindfulness

COURSE The Mental Health Foundation (bemindful.co.uk) offers a free online course.

APPS Headspace (free, iOS and Android) aims to make practising simple mindfulness techniques easy. Walking Meditations (£1.49, iOS; £1.23, Android) has three short tracks for busy people on the go.

BOOKS Try *Mindfulness: A Practical Guide to Finding Peace in a Frantic World* by Mark Williams and Danny Penman (£13.99, Little Brown); *The Little Book of Mindfulness* by Dr Patrizia Collard (£5.99, Gaia).

done lying down – perhaps in bed at the start or end of the day. Focus your attention on the top of your head, then slowly move onto each section of your body down to your toes, thinking about how each part feels. Greater self-awareness can relieve tension and encourage peace of mind.

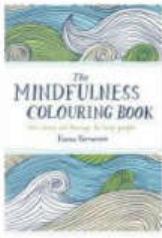
Q CAN I DO IT WHEN I'M OUT?

Walking meditation is an excellent way to pay more attention to the present moment while you're on the go. Take a few deep breaths and make yourself more aware of your environment and how you're feeling. As you walk, focus your thoughts on your feet hitting the ground and the swing of your leg as you take a step. Expand your awareness to what's around you, taking in the sights, smells and noises as you walk.

Q WHAT IF I'M TOO BUSY?

If you're going at a hundred miles an hour, you can grab any opportunity to be more mindful. If you're waiting in a queue, instead of getting impatient, slow down your breathing and focus on it. Identify times of the day when you tend to zone out, such as when you're driving or doing the washing up, and bring your attention back to what you're doing, taking proper notice of the sights, smells and sounds around you.

3 BEST COLOURING BOOKS FOR ADULTS



POCKET EDITION
The Mindfulness Colouring Book by Emma Farrarons (£7.99, Pan Macmillan)



TOTALLY WILD
Tropical Wonderland by Millie Marotta (£9.99, Batsford)



TAKE A TRIP
Enchanted Forest by Johanna Basford (£9.95, Laurence King Publishing)



Centuries of stains, dirt and grime. What better partner for Cif than English Heritage.

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Well, actually it's ready for some very, very old ones. Because Cif is going to help English Heritage to restore some of the country's most treasured historic buildings and monuments.

And it all begins with Cif supporting the task of restoring the Quadriga - the spectacular bronze statue on The Wellington Arch in central London. We can't wait.

You can follow our progress and find out more about how Cif and English Heritage are making England shine at www.cifclean.co.uk


**Making
England
Shine**




Tackle a task... Clean window treatments

Curtains, blinds and shutters are magnets for dust and grime, but a bit of TLC and know-how will keep them looking their best for longer

ESSENTIAL KIT

- Vacuum cleaner with brush attachment
- Laundry detergent
- Cloths or sponges
- Window cleaner
- Soft cloth
- Furniture polish
- Washing-up liquid
- Old sheet
- Old toothbrush

1 WASH CURTAINS

1 Remove dust once a week using the vacuum's brush attachment – a gentle shake will do for delicate fabrics. Wash every six months on a cool setting, or by hand if the fabric is delicate. Tumble dry on a low temperature, then iron while still slightly damp.

2 BLITZ BLINDS

2 Lay roller blinds on the floor and vacuum with a brush attachment. If suitable for washing, soak them for two hours in a bath of soapy water, concertinaing the fabric if necessary. Gently sponge clean, then rinse. Spot-clean paper blinds with a damp cloth.

3 WIPE AWAY DIRT

3 Close Venetian blinds and remove dust using a damp cloth or microfibre cleaner, working from the centre outwards and the top down. Treat marks and stains with window cleaner, but avoid getting wooden blinds wet as they can warp.

4 SPRUCE UP SHUTTERS

4 Vinyl or UPVC shutters can be sponged with a mix of water and washing-up liquid. Put down a sheet to catch drips. Use an old toothbrush for tricky-to-reach areas. Don't use water on wooden shutters. Instead, use a soft cloth and furniture polish.

Give your shutters a good clean every couple of months
Café-style shutters in Creamy, from £165 per sq m, The Shutter Store



TOP TRICKS TO

Blitz curtains, shutters and blinds

1

Use a hand-held steam cleaner to spot-clean small stains or remove ingrained dirt

2

For a quick fix, freshen fabric with an odour-neutralising spray

3

Shut windows when rehanging damp curtains, so outside dirt doesn't affect them

4

Stop fabrics fading by applying an anti-UV window coating from windowfilm.co.uk

3 of the best TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Make light work of window treatments with these handy products



£3.49

Time saver

Designed for Venetian blinds, this nifty tool removes dust from two slats at a time
Microfibre blind cleaner, Lakeland



£39.99

Steam power

Blast stubborn stains, or use as an alternative to machine or hand washing
Steam Shot, Bissell



£4

Shine on

An ecofriendly polish that's ideal for wooden shutters or blinds that can't be washed
Wood For Good polish, Method

Entertain guests in traditional style

Set an inviting and cosy scene to host friends and family with classic tableware from Sainsbury's

Now that winter is upon us, it's time to escape the cold and bring entertaining into the comfort of a warm and cosy home. Impressing your guests starts with a well-dressed home and, with its new collection of traditional tableware and home accessories, Sainsbury's has all you need to make your dinner party the talk of the town this season.

Use timeless patterns

The new-season range of homeware at Sainsbury's has a strong focus on classic prints that will never date. Shop the selection of traditional checks to set the scene for a cosy atmosphere in your dining room; mix up different plaids for a touch of Highland style, or team them with rich accent colours, such as red and green, for a more pared-back look. Continue the theme on your table – Sainsbury's has everything from crockery and serveware, to napkins and tablecloths to give your table a stylish, traditional feel.

Dress the table

Laying the table for the arrival of guests is a chance to set the scene for the evening ahead. Layer up dinnerware in each place setting, starting with the dinner plate at the bottom, a side plate on top, and a napkin or soup bowl to finish the stack. With such a great range of traditional-style crockery available at Sainsbury's this season, you can mix and match new designs with your own existing sets.

Create a golden glow

When it comes to setting the right ambience for your dinner party, it's important to get lighting right. Candles will create a soft, warming glow that will flatter not only your table, but your guests, too. Large jar candles are perfect for the table as the wax won't escape onto your linens, plus they'll last well into the evening. You'll find a great selection of candles, along with dinnerware and decorative home accessories, in selected Sainsbury's stores from 25 October.



Bring the outside in

Display fresh red roses along with green foliage from the garden to conjure a feeling of grandeur and elegance at the dining table



Red alert

Bring colour to your table with striking dinnerware
Red reactive dinner set, £50 for 12 pieces, Sainsbury's



Classic stripes
Go for timeless style
Red Stripe table runner, £12, Sainsbury's



Go for glow
Set the scene for an elegant party
Small gold-effect taper candle holder, £8, Sainsbury's



Check it out

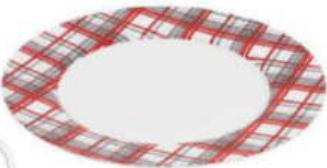
Complete a festive scheme with seasonal crockery and natural decorations
Winter Check dinnerware, from £2.50, Sainsbury's

Winter warmer

Add a hit of tartan
Winter Check mug, £3.50, Sainsbury's



Traditional pattern
Pick a country-style design
Winter Check dinner plate, £3.50, Sainsbury's



*Fine dining*

Greet guests with a beautiful table

Red reactive dinner plates, £5 each; Vintage wine glasses, £3.50 each; Winter nibble bowl, £2.50; red salt and pepper mills, £6 each; cast-iron red oval 4.7ltr casserole dish, £55; Dinner taper candles, £3 for 10; 1ltr square clip-top bottle, £3, Kilner range; all Sainsbury's



'Create a traditional look this season with Highland tartans, deep greens and rich reds'

ANDREW TANNER, HEAD OF HOME DESIGN, SAINSBURY'S

*For more information...*

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In the KITCHEN

This month, we're discovering the taste and health benefits of almond butter, sipping fruit liqueurs and investing in some classic cast-iron cookware

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

To-do list for NOVEMBER

EAT supper from a Riverford Organic Farms recipe box. Delivered to your door, it has all you need to cook three seasonal dishes for two people, from £27.90.

DRINK a mug of Waitrose's Signature Spice golden hot chocolate, £3.69 for 250g, to keep Bonfire Night chills at bay. The powder is infused with golden dust, which gives it a decorative shimmer.

TREAT yourself or find gifts at Burghley Fine Food Market in Stamford, Lincolnshire, on 28-29 November.

Pomegranate seeds can enhance anything from drinks and salads to couscous and lamb dishes. For recipes, visit goodtoknow.co.uk

Try a new taste...

ALMOND BUTTER

Made by roasting almonds and crushing or grinding them, almond butter is a great source of protein, low in saturated fat, high in fibre and contains vitamin E for healthy skin. You can stir it into porridge, spread on toast and use it for baking moreish biscuits.

HOW TO USE Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4, then line two baking trays with baking paper. Beat together 115g butter, 1tsp vanilla extract and 115g golden caster sugar until creamy. Beat in 4tbsp smooth almond butter and 1 egg. Sift in 200g plain flour and ½tsp baking powder, then mix to a dough. Roll into 2-3cm balls and place on the trays. Flatten each ball and use a fork to make a pattern. Bake for 10-15min until golden. Leave on the trays for 5min before cooling on a wire rack.



Crunchy almond butter biscuits are an easy bake that taste too good to resist

3 of the best FRUIT LIQUEURS



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Berry delicious
Bursting with fruit flavours from hand-picked wild sloes, this is a winner with chocolate desserts
2013 sloe gin (50cl), Sipsmith

£16.50



Winter warmer
Make a mean hot toddy with this award-winning blackberry whisky from North Yorkshire

Blackberry whisky liqueur (35cl), The Little Red Berry Co



£10

Dessert drink
Cherries and dark chocolate all in one drink – heaven in a bottle
Black Forest Gateau liqueur (35cl), Marks & Spenser

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Make light work of converting metric and imperial measurements with this smart chopping board

Kitchen Conversions chopping board (L32cm x W25.5cm), The Contemporary Home



£17.50

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Try one of these pans for hob, oven and table



£190

Classic choice
Ideal for one-pot cooking and suitable for all heat sources, including induction
Signature cast iron shallow casserole in Cassis (diameter 30cm), Le Creuset



£45

Incredible bargain
Guaranteed for 10 years, it cooks evenly and has a smooth finish
Cast iron shallow dish (diameter 32cm), Cook's Collection range, Sainsbury's

What you
smell.

What your
guests smell.



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light Christmas scent.



Breathe Happy

Squeeze in some SQUASH

Versatile and good for you, pumpkins and squash are a seasonal delight worth cooking with this month



Salty feta cheese and
crunchy pine nuts work
well with the soft, sweet
flesh of butternut squash

Stuffed butternut squash with chard & red onion

**SERVES 4 TAKES 5MIN PLUS
45MIN IN THE OVEN**

- 2 butternut squash, halved lengthways and deseeded
- 2tbsp olive oil ■ 2 red onions, chopped ■ 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 10 stems of chard or a large handful of spinach, shredded
- 6tbsp breadcrumbs ■ A few sprigs of thyme, leaves only
- 100g feta, crumbled ■ 50g pine nuts ■ A handful of basil leaves

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Score the flesh of the butternut squash halves in a crisscross pattern, leaving the skin intact. Transfer to a baking tray or ovenproof dish, and brush the flesh with a little of the olive oil. Roast in the preheated oven for 30min, or until the flesh is tender and starting to brown.

2 Meanwhile, fry the red onions and garlic in the remaining oil over a low-to-medium heat, stirring, for 10min, until softened. Add the chard or spinach, and breadcrumbs, then fry for a further 5min. Stir in the thyme leaves and crumbled feta. Add the pine nuts and season to taste with salt and freshly ground pepper.

3 When the squash is cooked, remove from the oven and stuff with the chard or spinach mixture. Return to the oven and roast for a further 10-15min, until the squash is golden brown and the feta has melted. To serve, top each half with a few basil leaves.

Cook's tip

You can also stuff large peppers with this filling, then roast at the same temperature as above for 25min

Pumpkin and a little ground ginger transform this buttery risotto into a lovely autumn warmer



Spiced pumpkin risotto

SERVES 6 TAKES 45MIN

- 500g pumpkin, peeled and cubed
- 1tbsp ground ginger ■ 1tbsp caster sugar ■ 60g butter, plus extra to serve
- 2tbsp olive oil ■ 3 shallots, finely chopped ■ 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 230g risotto rice ■ 2tbsp pumpkin seeds ■ 850ml hot chicken or vegetable stock ■ 20g Parmesan, grated

1 Toss the pumpkin with the ground ginger and sugar. Melt half the butter in a frying pan and fry the pumpkin, stirring occasionally, until golden and tender.

2 Meanwhile, heat the oil and remaining butter in a nonstick pan, until foaming. Fry the shallots and garlic over a low heat, until softened. Add the rice and pumpkin seeds, then cook, stirring, for 2min, until the rice is just translucent. Gradually add the stock, stirring, until all but one ladleful has been absorbed.

3 Stir the spiced pumpkin into the risotto with the remaining stock and season to taste. Stir through a little extra butter and serve with the grated Parmesan on the side for sprinkling on top.



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2000

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Brined chicken with pumpkin, pears & cider

**SERVES 4-6 TAKES 20MIN PLUS
BRINING, 1HR 10MIN IN THE OVEN
AND RESTING TIME**

- 200ml dry cider ■ 100g demerara sugar ■ 2tbsp rock salt ■ 1tbsp black peppercorns
- 2 thyme sprigs ■ 3 bay leaves, crushed ■ 1 large chicken ■ 10 shallots, halved ■ 4 bay leaves
- 5 thyme sprigs, plus extra leaves to serve ■ 50g butter, softened ■ 1 small pumpkin or round squash, deseeded and cut into wedges ■ 3 pears, halved and cored ■ 2tbsp olive oil ■ 150ml dry cider

1 Mix the first six ingredients with 200ml water. Put the chicken in a zip-seal bag and pour in the brine. Seal, place in a dish and chill for 6-24hr, turning the bag occasionally.

2 Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 5. Remove the chicken from the brine, rinse in cool water and pat dry. Put four shallot halves, a bay leaf and a thyme sprig inside its body cavity. Loosen the skin from the breast and put a knob of butter and the remaining bay leaves between the breast and skin.

3 Spread the remaining butter over the bird's legs and breast. Put the chicken in an ovenproof dish, cover loosely with foil and roast for 20min.

4 Uncover the chicken and add the remaining shallots and thyme, and the pumpkin and pears to the tin. Drizzle over the oil, season and pour in the cider. Reduce the heat to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 and roast for about 50min, or until the juices run clear when a skewer is inserted into the thigh.

5 Transfer the chicken to a board, cover with foil and rest for 10min. Garnish with thyme leaves, then carve.



The brining process will keep the chicken in this dish beautifully moist

Sausage, squash & cannellini bean casserole

SERVES 4 TAKES 40MIN

- 8 pork sausages ■ 1tbsp olive oil ■ 350g butternut squash, peeled and cut into wedges
- 1 red onion, sliced ■ 395g tinned cherry tomatoes ■ 100ml balsamic vinegar ■ 400g tinned cannellini beans, drained ■ 2 rosemary sprigs, roughly chopped

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Fry the sausages in the olive oil for 5min, until browned all over. Add the butternut squash and red onion, then fry for a further 5min, until browned. Add the tomatoes, vinegar, cannellini beans and rosemary, and bring to the boil.

2 Transfer to a roasting tin or ovenproof dish, and bake for 15–20min until the sausages are cooked and the squash is tender.

Cook's tip

Serve this warming casserole with a loaf of fresh crusty bread for mopping up the sauce



Cook this casserole for a crowd on bonfire night or Hallowe'en



For a meaty twist, add a few slices of Parma ham to this salad

Roasted squash & goat's cheese salad

SERVES 4 TAKES 25MIN PLUS 35MIN IN THE OVEN

- 2 butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunks ■ 2 red onions, quartered ■ 5tbsp olive oil ■ 50g fresh white breadcrumbs ■ 200g soft goat's cheese, broken into chunks ■ 50g rocket ■ 4tbsp balsamic glaze

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. In a roasting tin, toss the squash and red onion in half the

oil. Season, then roast for 35min, until the squash is charred at the edges.

2 Meanwhile, fry the fresh white breadcrumbs in the remaining oil over a medium heat, stirring, until golden and crisp. Season and set aside.

3 Mix the squash, onions, cheese and rocket. Divide between four bowls and top with the breadcrumbs and the balsamic glaze.

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In the GARDEN

Make the most of your outdoor space this month with our expert tips and essential know-how

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Grow something beautiful...

ACERS

Also called Japanese maples, these deciduous trees or shrubs are loved for their colourful foliage. They come in either a domed or upright shape, and vary in size, reaching from 1.2m to 8m high, with the smaller varieties ideal for containers.

HOW TO GROW While acers suit all types of soil, if it's clay, you'll need to add some organic matter to aid drainage. You should plant them in autumn, while the soil is still warm. Red and purple-leaved cultivars colour up best in some sunlight, while green-leaved varieties can tolerate full sun, but really all acers do best in dappled shade. Shelter them from cold winds and late frosts to protect delicate foliage.

TURN THE PAGE FOR THREE VARIETIES OF ACERS TO GROW

Perfect for small gardens, acers, or Japanese maples, offer a huge variety of colour, shape and size



To-do list for NOVEMBER

PLANT tulip bulbs now, as cooler soil helps avoid an unsightly fungal disease called 'tulip fire'. Choose plump, firm bulbs and plant them in containers or in clumps in a sunny border. Good drainage is essential to prevent the bulbs rotting.

PICK parsnips after the first frosts, as these will sweeten them up, but take care not to damage the roots or they won't store well. Leave some in the ground for further harvests, remembering to add plenty of mulch. Easy to grow and care for, they're ideal for roasting and putting in stews.

SOW purple-leaved cow parsley, *Anthriscus sylvestris* 'Ravenswing', for dramatic foliage colour and creamy-white summer flowers. Sow in a seed tray and cover with a thin layer of compost. Keep protected and plant in a sunny to partly shaded spot in late spring.



Plant tulips in bold groups for the best effect and soften with forget-me-nots or wallflowers

ACERS TO TRY

BEST FOR

Acer palmatum 'Sango-kaku'



Also called coral bark maple, this has bright red stems in winter and glorious canary yellow autumn leaves.

Architectural impact in a border, a medium-sized garden or a big courtyard. It will reach around H6m.

Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'



Deep purple foliage turns a rich scarlet in autumn. Its small purple flowers are followed by red fruits.

Planting in a lawn, in a large pot on a patio or at an entrance as a statement tree. It will grow up to 4m tall.

Acer palmatum 'Villa Taranto'



Its deeply cut foliage turns a rusty orange in autumn. The elegant feathery leaves look a little like bamboo.

Containers or planting in a rock garden to make the most of its domed habit. It will reach around 3m in height.

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Made from frost-proof ceramic and stainless steel, this tabletop firepit uses clean-burning combustion gel for fuel

Floz firepit (H10cm x D32cm), Blomus range, Black By Design



Weekend project WITH SARAH RAVEN



Celebrate autumn with a stunning seasonal wreath to hang on the front door or have as a table centrepiece.

Place a ring of damp florist's foam on a plastic base and add lots of sprigs from the garden, including vibrant Chinese

lanterns and long-lasting beech leaves. Cover the base with scented pelargoniums, then add hydrangeas and hawthorn berries for colour. I also like using ornamental vegetables, such as the prickly hedgehog gourd and 'Strawberry Popcorn' sweetcorn, which are added for

texture and shape. Drizzle with water every few days. **Gardener, writer and TV presenter** Sarah Raven runs a range of courses at her East Sussex garden, Perch Hill



Bring seasonal colour indoors with a wreath

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dip dining chair £149
faro three seater sofa £999
capsa stool £59
cushions from £24.95
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Girl About Tech

Meet Amy, our expert blogger: she'll keep you one step ahead in the ever-changing world of tech

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TREND ALERT!

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Meet the new gang of gadgets out to monitor and improve the air quality in your home

WHY WE LOVE THEM... It's time to whack up the central heating, give up drying our laundry outside and batten down the hatches for winter, but did you know having damp clothes and dry air inside our homes can cause health issues? The solution is to keep humidity levels at an optimum of between 40% and 60%. Low humidity, which brings on anything from wrinkles to eczema, can be treated with a humidifier, whereas high humidity, in which allergy triggers such as mould

and mildew can thrive, is tackled with a dehumidifier. There are also gadgets that monitor air quality and warn us if it has reached an unhealthy level.

PRODUCTS WE LOVE... Dyson's humidifier uses UV rays to ensure the light mist it emits is free of bacteria, while Withings' home-monitoring system sends air-quality alerts, so if you're using powerful cleaning products, you'll be prompted at the very least to open a window or even consider switching to a less-toxic brand.

Be warned
Home-monitoring system for iOS, *Withings*



£170

This smart webcam sends an alert to an iPad or iPhone if the air quality in your home deteriorates, so you can let in some fresh air



£200

Damp buster
EXD16DN3W
compact dry 16ltr dehumidifier, *Electrolux*

LED controls make it easy to change modes, which include Turbo On for a boost when drying clothes indoors

£500

Save your skin ►

Humidifier, *Dyson* range, *John Lewis*

Ditch the pricey creams and add this to your beauty routine. It emits a fine mist for up to 18 hours to keep fine lines at bay and prevent skin from drying out



£200

Easy to empty ►

DXDH20N
Forté 20ltr
dehumidifier, *Dimplex*

Attach a hose to it and water will continuously drain out, so you don't have to struggle with a heavy tank



GIRL ABOUT TECH'S MANIFESTO

I believe that tech should...

- Make your life easier
- Be super-simple to use
- Stand the test of time
- Look good and work brilliantly

FACT! British pets have chewed their way through £358 million in hi-tech gadgetry since 2010

'Make it yours' phone, Motorola

Its fashionable finishes and cool camera come at a great price

FEATURES WE LOVE

1 Customisable look Order a SIM-free handset through Motorola's Moto Maker website and you'll be able to personalise it. You can choose a black or white front, one of 10 colourful backs and 10 metallic accents. For an extra £24.99, you can also buy a protective flip shell that covers the screen.

2 Water resistance Anyone who's ever spilt coffee on their phone or dropped it in the loo will be relieved to hear that the new G is IPX7 rated – in other words, it's waterproof to a depth

of 1m for up to half an hour. The 5in screen is tough and scratch-resistant, too.

3 Impressive photos The cameras are a big improvement on the old Moto G snappers, with more megapixels (13MP for the back and 5MP at the front) and vibrant, natural results. Want to take a selfie in a hurry? You can turn the camera app on with a quick flick of the wrist.

4 Speedy charging It promises 'all-day battery life' and, if you buy a Turbo Power 15 charger, £24.99, it can take on eight hours of power in just 15 minutes.

Object of desire



Moto G, from £179, Motorola

Because it's beautiful

If you're struggling to get the kids to eat breakfast, this might help. You can actually watch your bread toasting through the special Thermoglass, as lights count down the time. Then, when it's ready, an alarm sounds and your toast automatically rises up in one smooth motion. The glass is revolutionary, getting almost twice as hot as a standard wire element for faster and more even browning, and it can also defrost and reheat.

Redefine glass toaster,
Morphy Richards

This model has Thermoglass technology for perfect, evenly browned toast



£200



FACT! 47% of us recall our childhood home number, yet only 29% know our kids' mobile numbers

The hi-tech way to... bake a cake

For desserts that will always rise to the occasion



£59.95

Smart scales

Drop kitchen scales, Lakeland

Use with the iOS app for easy baking. Low on one ingredient? It can scale the recipe for however much flour, sugar, etc, is left

Easy control

MultiMix 3 hand mixer, Braun

It's weighted so the power is directed into the bowl – not your hand – to let you mix, knead, blend and chop easily



£69.99



£34.99

Fast food

Retro 3-in-1 sweet snack maker, Gourmet Gadgetry

A nifty device that can bake seven doughnuts, seven cupcakes or 12 cake pops in just a few minutes



£380

Stir crazy

SMF01 Retro stand mixer, Smeg

This stylish mixer is a joy to use – Soft Start keeps ingredients inside the bowl and there's an outlet for extras, including a pasta roller

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Take time out for AFTERNOON TEA

*Give the family a treat with tea and biscuits
from the Alice in Wonderland range by Whittard*

Since 1865, Lewis Carroll's book, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, has been a family favourite. This curious fine bone china collection, illustrated with characters from the popular book, has been designed exclusively for Whittard at The Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire.

Get into character

If you fancy a fun afternoon, why not throw your own Mad Hatter's tea party with each guest pretending to be their favourite character? You'll find plenty at Whittard to help create the right atmosphere. There are mugs featuring the book's characters, dainty cups and saucers, and pretty plates

for sweet treats, like Whittard's Queen of Hearts shortbread biscuits. Plus, there's a nice big teapot – you'll just need to check that there isn't a cheeky dormouse taking a nap inside it!

Choose the perfect tea

When it comes to the tea, go traditional with the Drink Me selection of English Breakfast, Afternoon or Earl Grey teas. Alternatively, there's Alice's Tea Chest, which contains Bohemian Raspberry with real raspberries and cornflowers, Alice's Afternoon Tea, a black and green blend with bergamot and rose petals, or Vanilla Tea. Alternatively, simply pick your favourite from Whittard's fine selection of teas from around the world.

Original illustrations

Inspired by the Mad Hatter's tea party, this fine bone china set is hand-crafted by The Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent

**Alice in Wonderland
china, from £12 for a
tea plate, Whittard**

THROW A TEA PARTY

*Have a magical time
with Whittard treats*



Tempting trio

This illustrated pack includes three delicious teas: Bohemian Raspberry, Alice's Afternoon and Vanilla
Alice's Tea Chest, £15. Whittard



Right royal

Right Royal
Inspired by the Queen of Heart's famous tarts, these are great for dunking.

Queen of Hearts
strawberry flavour
shortbread biscuits,
£5. Whittard

For more information...

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THE LATEST TEA
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YOUR NEAREST
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WHITTARD.CO.UK



You'll love this...

Chef-worthy cooker



Master the perfect béchamel – or, at the very least, beans on toast – with this cool bit of kit. It features an induction hob, which gives precise control over temperatures, so you can try cheffy techniques (see page 184), while catalytic liners make cleaning the two ovens less of a hassle by

turning grease into fine ash when you set the heat above 200°C. It also has telescopic shelf runners that leave both hands free to lift dishes out onto the worktop, so dinner ends up on the table, not the floor.

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE

OR TRY ONE OF THESE...
Induction-top range cookers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY



Ooh la la

Elise W90cm electric range cooker in China Blue, Rangemaster

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'I fell for the French styling and fast-heating main oven with defrost, grill and pizza modes'



Turkey-tastic

A1PYID W90cm electric range cooker, Smeg

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'The 90ltr oven has space for the biggest of birds on Christmas Day, and it cleans itself, too'



Old meets new

110i W110cm electric range cooker in Burgundy, Everhot

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'This heat-storage cooker has a hotplate and an induction hob, and plugs into a regular socket'

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You'll love this...

Sound-boosting bar



Are you forever rewinding shows because you didn't catch what a character said? Or does the action film that blew your socks off at the cinema become a damp squib at home? It sounds to me like your TV could use a boost from this versatile soundbar. The two ends can be removed and placed anywhere in the room to create a superb 5.1 surround-sound system. Press a button on the remote and it'll work out where the speakers are and optimise the sound accordingly. The two satellites can also be used as portable Bluetooth speakers.

GIRL ABOUT TECH, TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER

Fidelio B5 soundbar, £550, Philips



OR TRY ONE OF THESE...
Supersonic soundbars

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY

£900



Ahead of the curve

HW-J8500 soundbar,
Samsung

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'Your top-notch curved TV will look great paired up with this bar. Dialogue sounds especially clear, and it links up with Samsung's Wi-Fi multiroom speakers when you're in a party mood'

£500



Packs a punch

A70 AirSound soundbar,
Orbitsound

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'The audio is rich and bassy, and I like the smart light-up display. It also has Bluetooth, so you can use it to play music from your phone or tablet, and you can control the volume with your TV remote'

£200



Bargain bar

Upstage 2.1 soundbar,
Kitsound

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'This entry-level bar has surprisingly sophisticated looks, built-in Bluetooth and four modes – Game, Movie, Music and Night – so you'll always get the best sound for the occasion'

Girl About Tech explains...

How to cook like a head chef

Impress your friends and family with delicious, home-made, restaurant-standard dishes

WHAT IS IT? Blame Heston and his fellow TV chefs, but the days of passing off that shop-bought soup or tzatziki as your own are over. When it comes to dinner-party food, it's a case of 'go home made or go home'. After all, if *Celebrity MasterChef* finalist Rylan Clark – a man who hadn't even cooked fish before – can turn out an impressive trio of lavender desserts, surely you can, too? That's why it's worth adding an appliance or two to your pre-Christmas shopping list.

WHAT DO I NEED? Start with buying an induction hob – you'll be in good company as top restaurants, such as London's Le Gavroche, are now kitted out with them as chefs love their precise heat. If you're a keen baker, try an oven with a steam function for crispy loaves and a warming drawer with a slow-cook feature for making meringues and 'sun-drying' tomatoes. If you don't want to splash too much cash, you could treat yourself to a slow cooker, or a pro-blender for creating soups and cheffy-style emulsions from scratch.

Tech Tip 'Like anything highly temperature-sensitive, hollandaise is easier to make on an induction hob as you can keep the water at exactly the simmering point you need'

DAN DOHERTY, EXECUTIVE CHEF AT DUCK & WAFFLE AND LEISURE BRAND AMBASSADOR



1 BE PRECISE WITH INDUCTION

Sat Bains, Michel Roux Jr and Nick Nairn are just some of the top chefs who have swapped their gas burners for induction zones. These are much cheaper to run – a key consideration in a pro kitchen – and they often come with a rapid booster function for boiling water quickly and for sautéing, plus ultra-low settings for tasks such as melting chocolate and simmering sauces, ideal if you're looking to take your dishes to the next level.



2 STEAM YOUR WAY TO BETTER BAKES

If you love baking but find it tricky to get good results, buy an oven that combines traditional convection heat with steam. It will give your bread a crunchier crust, create moister sponge puddings and help layers of choux and filo pastry to expand into fluffy clouds of deliciousness.

3 SLOW COOK FOR TASTE AND TENDERNESS

Re-create your Gastropub favourites with that Seventies staple, the slow cooker. Cooking on a low heat for a long time (often for eight hours or more) will turn cheaper cuts of meat into tender dishes – experiment with pulled pork or braised beef cheeks, and you'll see what I mean. Countertop slow cookers have limited capacity, so you might prefer a range cooker or built-in oven with a slow-cook programme. Top chefs favour warming drawers, due to their more precise temperature controls – even I managed to make the most delicious Parmesan crisps in one.

4 INVEST IN A 'SUPER BLENDER'

These powerful machines can make the most velvety emulsions and the smoothest of soups, and take on tasks that regular blenders just can't handle, like milling flour and blending fresh nut butters. Deliciously Ella says that her Vitamix is 'by far the best blender I've ever used'.



5 LOCK IN FLAVOUR WITH SOUS-VIDE

You'll need to invest in the right kit, but if you want to impress with the most succulent steaks and the creamiest crème brûlées, try sous-vide cooking. Meaning 'under vacuum', sous-vide involves sealing food in an airtight bag using a vacuum packer, then placing it in a steam oven or water bath to cook. *MasterChef* 2011 winner Tim Anderson is a big fan of the method, which preserves the flavours, juices, nutrients and textures lost in conventional cooking. 'Try carrots – oh man!' he says. 'Chuck them in a vacuum bag with some butter, brown sugar and salt. They'll take much longer to cook than usual, but will taste amazing.'

Try these...

CHEF-WORTHY GADGETS



Cooks and crisps

ZOS37902XD built-in combi-steam oven, Zanussi

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Has an easy-fill water tank, and the True Fan + Steam function puffs pastry and roasts meat a treat'



Easy scheduling

Crock-Pot Digital Countdown slow cooker, Amazon.co.uk

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Set this family sized pot to the time you want it to finish cooking – it keeps food warm if you're late'

Super blender

Professional Series 750, Vitamix

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Presets will keep newbies happy, while top cooks can pick speeds and pulse manually'



Chef's control

HKH81700FB MaxiSense combi induction hob, AEG

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Feel like a pro as you take a pan from boil to simmer in an instant by moving it across the FreeZone'

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Appy talk

ART CLASS

Sketch, paint or just doodle – these drawing apps will help bring out the creative side of the whole family



LEARN TO DRAW

Android, free

Perfect for all ages looking to improve their sketching skills, this is such a simple idea. You still need a pencil and paper, but you choose a picture from the 80-plus available and the app then teaches you how to draw it, layer by layer. The step-by-step method makes it lots of fun and available images vary from *The Simpsons'* characters to Japanese, Manga-style cartoons.

ALSO TRY How To Draw – Free Drawing Lessons, free for iOS



TATE KIDS DRAW & PLAY

iOS, free

With canvases by famous illustrators and sculptors, such as Barbara Hepworth, this app encourages creativity. Aimed at kids aged four to eight, it's simple to use (it may be a bit basic for older users) and they can add stickers and sound effects to their work. Best of all, you can upload drawings to the Tate's online gallery.

ALSO TRY PlayART by Tapook, £2.99 for iOS



PAPER BY FIFTYTHREE

iOS, free

Part traditional drawing app, part virtual paper journal, this will appeal to anyone with a creative job, as it makes taking notes, sketching and planning ideas a real joy. You can also knock up diagrams and charts in next to no time. And while the optional Bluetooth stylus, or 'Pencil', is pricey at £49.99, it works seamlessly and writes so smoothly, I've all but given up my Moleskine notebooks in favour of my iPad.

ALSO TRY Forge, free for iOS



FRESH PAINT

Windows phone, free

This is one of the few arty apps available for Windows devices, but Fresh Paint is a real cracker. I've seen established artists turn out some amazingly detailed work using the app in conjunction with a Surface tablet and Pen stylus, but it has truly universal appeal – for example, you can buy 'colouring books' to keep the kids busy, while less artistic grown-ups can turn photos into digital paintings in a flash.

ALSO TRY Brushstroke, £2.29 for iOS



ART SET

iOS, £1.49

Boasting every pen, pencil, oil paint and pastel you could ever want, this gorgeous digital canvas lets you get creative on your iPhone or iPad. I'm no Claude Monet, but the oil paint with authentic brushstrokes looked fantastic.



ALSO TRY

ArtStudio, £3.99 for iOS



SKETCHBOOK EXPRESS

iOS and Android, free

It's been around for a while but Sketchbook remains one of the best free doodling apps available for the small screen. It offers silky smooth drawing with 15 adjustable ink, pencil and spray-paint options, a virtually unlimited colour palette and easy layering, so you can come over all creative and layer your photos under sketches and annotations.

ALSO TRY Autodesk Sketchbook, free for iOS



DISNEY COLOR AND PLAY

iOS and Android, free

A real crowd pleaser for the under 10s with colouring books featuring *Doc McStuffins*, *Big Hero Six* and *Frozen*. Once kids have decorated their favourite character in 2D using paints, patterns, pens and stickers, they can watch their creation leap from the screen in animated 3D. Free content is limited, but multi-buy scenes are available from just £1.49.

ALSO TRY Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat Color & Create!, £2.99 for iOS



ARTFLOW

Android, free

Works best on a bigger tablet but the brush and colour menus are hidden, so it makes the most of a smartphone screen. This has everything a doodler needs, but upgrade to the pro license version for £2.69 and even serious artists will be spoilt for choice – with an option to create an image with multiple layers and export it to Photoshop for editing.

ALSO TRY Infinite Painter, free for Android



TOONIA COLORBOOK

iOS, free

Preschoolers will love this colouring-in app, and you'll like not having to scrub crayon off the table. There's a wide range of free pictures and nine crayon colours, plus you can buy extra themed packs from £1.49. Little ones can save, share or print out their work, or give the device a shake to wipe the slate clean for next time.

ALSO TRY Draw Free!, free for Windows Phone



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Meet the brand

ROBERTS



It has been 50 years since Roberts was granted a Royal Warrant, but it's still ruling the (radio) waves

Think Roberts and you'll probably picture its Revival sets, which come in a range of colours and editions – these were launched in the Fifties, when the company realised it could generate a lot of free press with a case made from gold or painted with characters. It's not all about cute, retro design, though – Roberts has innovated the world's first DAB radio, internet radios

and an award-winning Bluetooth speaker. Could a multiroom system be next? I can't wait to find out!

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



RD60 Revival DAB radio
in Dove Grey, £170, Roberts

TWO MORE HERO DESIGNS

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Hand-held heritage

Travel Pad Bluetooth speaker, Roberts

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Better late than never to the Bluetooth party, the Travel Pad has a 12-hour battery life and a crisp sound that belies its price tag'



World music

Stream 93i internet radio and media streamer, Roberts

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Open yourself to a world of internet radio – be it Japanese J-pop, Goa trance or Kizomba from Angola – or just stream tracks directly from Spotify'

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROBERTS

1932 Harry Roberts and Leslie Bidmead begin making portable receivers as Roberts Radio

1937 Launches the M4Q compact radio

1940-45 Focuses on military commissions and moves production to Surrey



1955 The company is granted a Royal Warrant

1956 The first Revival-style radio, the R66, is released to the public



2014 Builds on the popularity of its Revival radios with a Mini version

1932

1936

1940

1948

1955

1999

2007

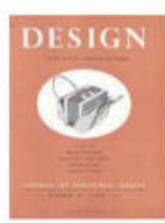
2014



1936 Roberts moves to larger premises at Rathbone Place in London

1939 Harrods sells Queen Elizabeth an M4D radio 'for her personal use'. The year before, Her Majesty had bought one for her daughter, Princess Elizabeth

1948 Launches the Junior – one of the first portable radios. It weighs 10lb and comes with a weatherproof carrying bag



1999 Launches the world's first Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) radio

2007 Releases its first internet radio, the WM201





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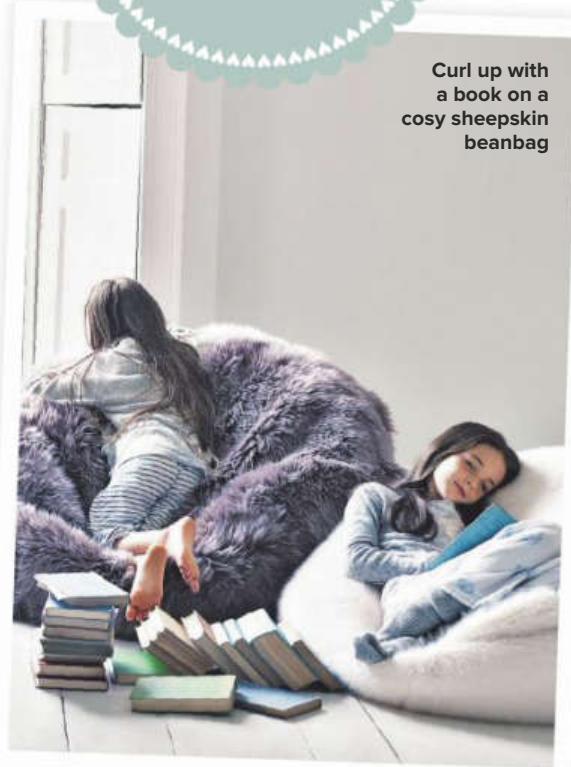
*The Northern Lights are natural phenomena that cannot be guaranteed to occur during our flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings. Our guest astronomer advises at least an 80% chance of a sighting. Offer operated and subject to the booking conditions of Omega Holidays, ATOL 6081, a company wholly independent of Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.





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Create an inviting space that's perfect for whiling away chilly, dark evenings with the new winter collection from Cox & Cox.

LAYER UP TACTILE TEXTURES

From chunky knits and faux-fur beanbags to velvet quilts and sheepskin rugs, Cox & Cox's winter collection is packed full of buys that are ideal for building a Scandi-style scheme with the all-important snuggle factor.

GO FOR CHIC COMFORT Cox & Cox has a wide range of cosy furniture designs – create a relaxed look by teaming sumptuous sheepskin beanbags with faux-fur cushions,

rattan chairs and Scandi-style side tables. For a luxury look, shop the brand's range of elegant mirrors, vases and home accessories.

CREATE A WARM AMBIENCE

Finish off your scheme with a design from Cox & Cox's extensive range of lighting. Whatever your style, you'll find a light fitting to suit, from contemporary table lamps and pendants to copper floor lamps.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Cox & Cox to offer readers 20% off all orders. Visit coxandcox.co.uk to browse the range of furniture, lighting and home accessories.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS This offer entitles Ideal Home readers to redeem a 20% discount on all purchases made at coxandcox.co.uk from 26 September to 1 November 2015 by entering the discount code IDEAL20 at the checkout. This offer is only redeemable against products purchased online or by phone from coxandcox.co.uk. The discount code can be used across the entire Cox & Cox range. The offer code can be used multiple times by one customer throughout the offer period. This discount code is not valid on sale items and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

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Ideal for cooking hearty one-pot family meals, this large nonstick lidded pan is a versatile piece of kitchen kit.

- The **3.96ltr** pan is suitable for sautéing and frying.
- Its **nonstick ceramic interior** won't blister or peel, and is suitable for use on all hob types, as well as in the oven.
- The **dishwasher-safe** pan is made from induction-compatible stainless steel in a mirror-polish finish.
- This large pan comes with a **glass lid** with a loop handle and a steam vent.
- The pan has a **five-year guarantee**.

Viners 30cm ceramic sauté pan, £29.99 (was £69.99), plus £3.95 P&P. Quote code D8552



COOKS PROFESSIONAL SOUP MAKER

Combining cooking and blending functions in one compact unit, this gadget will make healthy soup in as little as 25 minutes. Simply add your choice of fresh ingredients, switch on and that's it.

- This soup maker has an **800W motor**, a 1.2ltr jug and built-in blending blades that can be set to chunky or smooth settings.
- Its **speed, time and temperature controls** are easy to use, plus it has keep-warm and reheat functions.
- This soup maker comes with a **two-year** manufacturer's warranty.

Cooks Professional soup maker, £49.99 (was £79.99), plus £3.95 P&P. Quote code D5598



CAST-IRON CASSEROLE DISHES

Perfect for stews and one-pot recipes, these casserole dishes are available separately or as a two-piece set, and in a choice of four colours (cream shown above).

- The **shallow casserole dish** measures 30cm x 6cm and weighs 5.8kg.
- The **round casserole dish** measures 21cm x 10.5cm and weighs 4.2kg.
- These lidded dishes are suitable for use with **gas, ceramic, electric and halogen** hobs and ovens.

Cast-iron casserole dishes, from £39.99 each (save up to £70), plus £3.95 P&P. Quote codes in the table below

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ORANGE	D7436	D7437	D7438
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and fast. Plus, when it's time for a new update, Superfresco Easy wallpapers peel off walls easily and in one strip, without the need for steamers and labour-intensive scraping.

With a huge selection of colours, textures and styles, ranging from bold geometrics to romantic florals and delicate motifs, the Superfresco Easy range has something to suit everyone.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Graham & Brown to offer readers 20% off wallpapers in the Superfresco Easy range for orders made online. Check out the designs and place your order at superfrescoeasy.com.

HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To redeem your 20% discount on wallpapers in the Superfresco Easy range, simply shop the selection at superfrescoeasy.com and enter the promotional code EASY20 on the checkout page. This offer is available online only.

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You'll find everything you need for the festive season at the Ideal Home Show at Christmas in London and Manchester



This winter, the Christmas edition of the Ideal Home Show, sponsored by Gocompare.com, is returning to EventCity Manchester from 12 to 15 November and, for the first time, will be coming to Olympia London from 25 to 29 November.

This annual shopping event brings you everything you need to get set for Christmas. With hundreds of exhibitors across seven sections, including Interiors & Home Accessories, Food & Drink, Home Improvements & Outdoor Living, Fashion & Beauty, Technology & Gadgets, Gifts and Christmas Decorations, it's the biggest home

show at Christmas. Plus, you can enjoy live music, see cookery demonstrations from top celebrity chefs and discover stocking fillers at the Christmas Arcade - new to the show this year. When you're ready to refuel, head to Gregg Wallace's pop-up restaurant or treat yourself to a glass of fizz in the Champagne Bar. This year's show is bound to put you in a festive mood.

VISIT THE CAKE & BAKE SHOW

Your ticket to the Ideal Home Show at Christmas at EventCity Manchester will also give you free entry to the Manchester Cake & Bake Show.

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Plus, buy additional weekday tickets for just £9**. To book for the London show, call 0844 209 7330 or visit idealhomeshowchristmas.co.uk and quote IHOMEC. To book for the Manchester show, call 0844 209 7366 or visit idealhomeshowmanchester.com and quote IHOMEC.

*Free ticket terms and conditions apply. See back of complimentary ticket bound in to magazine for details. **Book additional weekday tickets to the shows before 13 November (Manchester) or 27 November (London) for just £9 each. Concessions not included. £1.70 transaction fee applies. Children aged 15 and under go FREE when accompanied by a paying adult. Calls cost 6p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.



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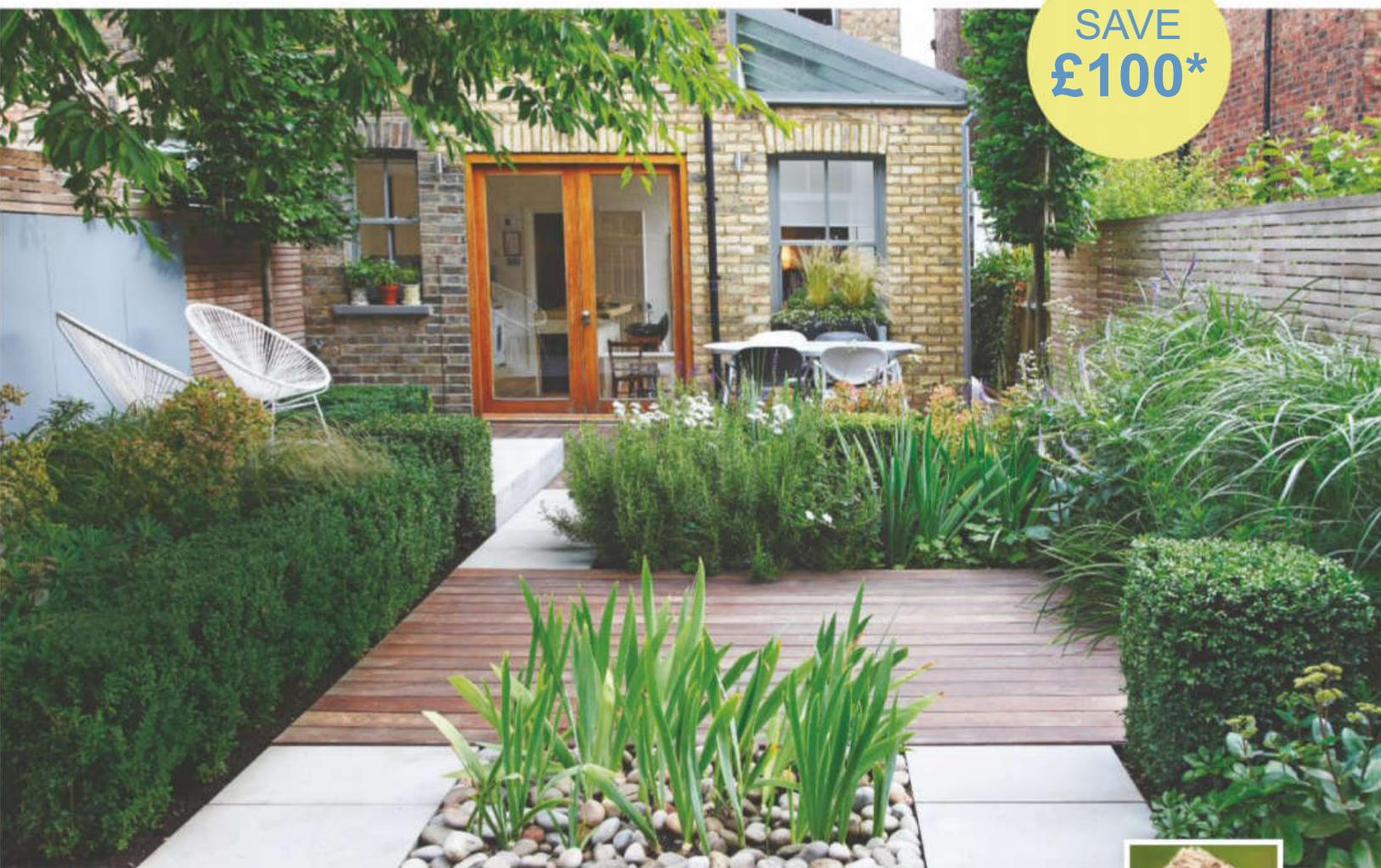
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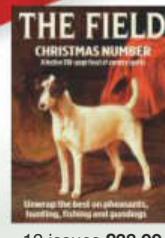
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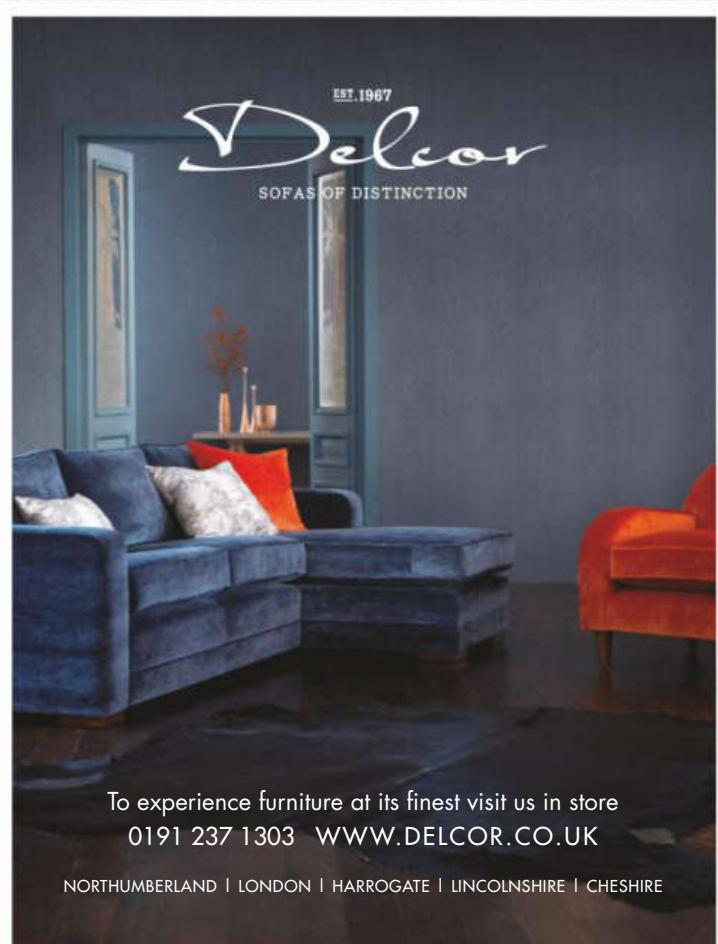


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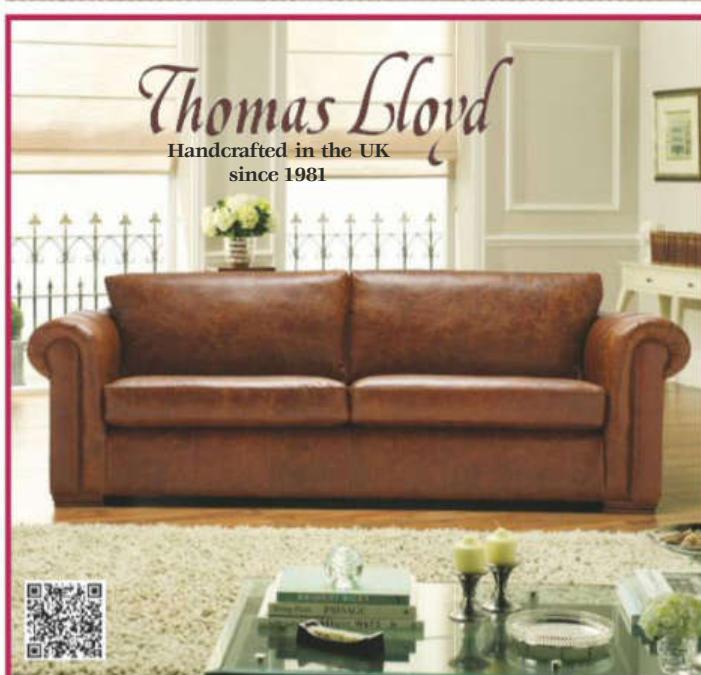
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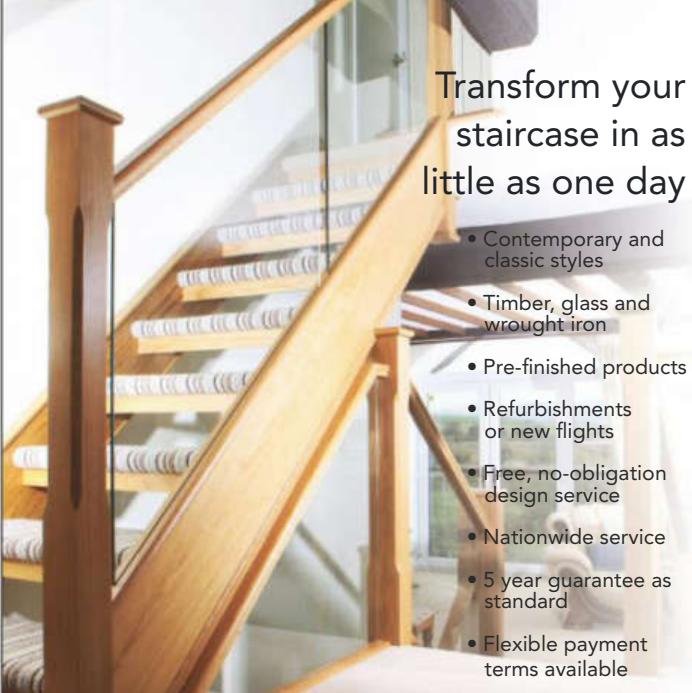
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Samsung 0330

726 7864; samsung.com/uk

Sandberg 00 46 321 531 660;

sandbergab.se/en

Sanderson 0844 543 9500;

sanderson-uk.com

Scandinavian Shop (The)

01436 673623;

scandinavianshop.co.uk

Shabby Store 01509 323102;

shabbystore.co.uk

Shoreditch Lighting

020 7101 9473;

shoreditchlighting.co.uk

Shutter Store (The) 0800

074 7321; shutters.co.uk

Simply Radiators 020 8884

3369; simplyradiators.co.uk

Singer 0800 622 6688;

singerdirect.co.uk

Sipsmith 020 8747 0753; sipsmith.com**Slate Grey Sea** folksy.com/

shops/slategreyssea

Smalleable 020 3445 0146;

smalleable.com

Smeg 0844

557 9907; smeguk.com

Soak&Sleep 01483 437762;

soakandsleep.com

Sofa.com 0345 400 2222;

sofa.com

Sofas & Stuff 0808 178 3211;

sofasandstuff.com

Solarcentury 020 7549 1000;

solarcentury.com

Splashback Shop 01805 622461;

splashbackshop.co.uk

St Aidan's Homeware Store

020 8378 2216; staidans

homewaresstore.co.uk

Stoneglow Candles

020 8595 8878;

stoneglowcandles.co.uk

Stone Store 0161 820 3532;

stonesuperstore.co.uk

Surface View 0118 922 1327;

surfaceview.co.uk

Sweetpea & Willow

0345 257 2627;

sweetpeaandwillow.com

Swoon Editions 020 3137

2464; swooneditions.com

T 3rd Policeman (The)

the3rdpoliceman.com

Talking Tables

020 7627 6767; talkingtables.

co.uk

Tesco Direct 0800

323 4050; tesco.com/direct

TileStyle 00 353 1855 5200;

tilestyle.ie

Topps Tiles 0800

023 4703; topstiles.co.uk

True Grace 01985 210893;

truegrace.co.uk

Trunk Reclaimed 01434

634209; trunkreclaimed.co.uk

UK Bathrooms

01765 694720;

ukbathrooms.

UV

01765 694720;

ukbathrooms.

Vanessa Arbuthnott

01285 831437; vanessa

arbuthnott.co.uk

Very

0844 822 2321; very.co.uk

Victoria + Albert 01952

221100; vandabaths.co.uk

Victorian Bathrooms 4 U

0113 390 7512; victorian

bathrooms4u.com

Victorian Plumbing 0800 862 0878;

victorianplumbing.co.uk

Victoriaplum.com 0344 804

4848; victoriaplum.com

Villa Nova 01623 756699;

villanova.co.uk

Vitamix 0808

156 6633; vitamix.co.uk

Voga 020 3176 2802;

voga.com

Voyage Decoration 0141 641 1700;

voyagedecoration.com

Waitrose

0800 188884;

waitrose.com

Wallpaperdirect 01323

430886; wallpaperdirect.com

Walls and Floors 01536

314730; wallsandfloors.co.uk

Wayfair 0800 169 0423;

wayfair.co.uk

West Elm 0800 404 9780; westelm.co.uk**Westerhope Tile Centre**

0191 214 0336; westerhope

tilecentre.com

White Company (The) 020 3758 9222;

thewhitecompany.com

Wilko 0800 032 9329;

wilko.com

Withings

withings.com/uk

Wood & Beyond 020 8209 2662;

woodandbeyond.com

Woodburner Warehouse

01559 362847; woodburner

warehouse.co.uk

Woodpecker Interiors 0121

288 1897; woodpeckerinteriors.

co.uk

Workshop Living 01273 731340; workshopliving.

co.uk

WorldStores 0344

482 7500; worldstores.co.uk

Wren Kitchens

wrenkitchens.com

YZ Yester Home

01746 710777;

yesterhome.com

Zanussi 0844 561 2612;

zanussi.co.uk

Zara Home

0800 026 0091; zarahome.

com/gb

Zoffany 08445

434600; zoffany.com

Enjoy the special touch that candles add to your home, but take care to use them safely:

Always place lit candles well away from foliage, furniture, curtains and soft furnishings,

and always out of draughts ■ Keep candles out of reach of children and pets ■ Never leave

a burning candle unattended ■ Keep candles away from hair and clothing

■ Always place candles upright in suitable holders that can't easily fall over ■ Always be sure that candles are properly extinguished

■

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1 A SUPER-LUXE THROW Laugh in the face of chilly draughts swathed in one of these faux-fur numbers from Cox & Cox. At £195 a pop, you'd better not spill hot chocolate on it, though...



2 DIVA-STYLE WRAP You'll shimmy, not walk, around the house in this silk gown, £210 from Gingerlily. All you need to go with it is a glass of prosecco and a pair of maribou-trimmed mules (no, your Uggs won't do!)

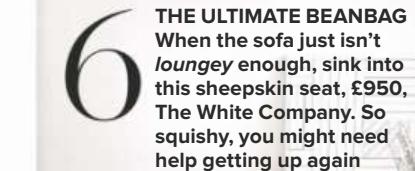


3 POSH CHOCOLATES Originally created for Claridge's, these No. 1 salted caramels, £14.99 from Artisan du Chocolat, are definitely not for sharing



4 UPSCALE GIN

Who said gin is best as a summer drink? Mix equal parts vermouth and Hendrick's, £28 from Waitrose, with a dash of bitters and an orange slice for a great autumn tipple. Chin-chin!



6 THE ULTIMATE BEANBAG

When the sofa just isn't loungey enough, sink into this sheepskin seat, £950, The White Company. So squishy, you might need help getting up again



5

SENSUAL SCENTED CANDLE

Neom's lavender, jasmine and basil-scented Tranquility skin treatment candle, £36 from John Lewis, releases warm massage oil when lit for extra pampering



CUTE SLIPPERS Cosset your aching feet with these toasty – yet elegant – ballerina slippers, £39 at Ruby+Ed. Less embarrassing than monster-feet slippers when answering the door, too

9 LITTLE LUXURIES TO GET YOU THROUGH WINTER

Pricey... but if they make you smile every grey day, they're worth it!

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8 MEGA-GLAM MUGS When a cuppa just won't cut it, treat yourself to a hot chocolate served in one of these gleaming mugs, £15 each, and stir in some mini marshmallows with a glitzy spoon, from £14 for two, all from Oliver Bonas



9

**SLEEK
SPEAKER**

Looking more like a designer clutch bag than a slick speaker, Bang & Olufsen's BeoPlay A2, £299, streams your top tracks to your chill-out zone of choice with 360° sound

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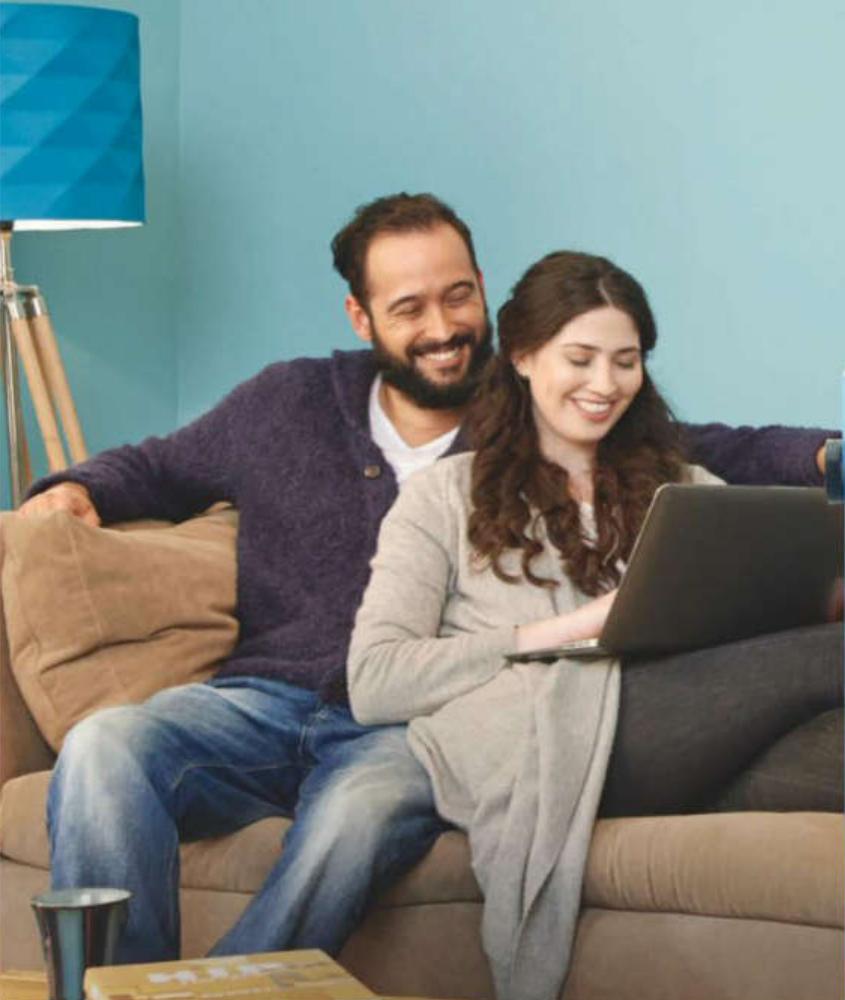
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